

## 30 behavioral questions you should be ready to answer

by Lily Zhang

Interview prep 101 dictates that you should have your elevator pitch ready, a few stories polished (for the behavioral interview questions you'll probably be asked), and a good sense of what you have to offer. So, how do you get there? Lots of practice, ideally aloud. To help you better prepare for your next interview, here are 30 behavioral interview questions sorted by topic (in addition to over 40 common interview questions that you should be more than familiar with).

Behavioral interview questions require candidates to share examples of specific situations they've been in where they had to use certain skills. According to the Society for Human Resource Management, the answers "should provide verifiable, concrete evidence as to how a candidate has dealt with issues in the past." In short, it's a way to let your past work performance prove what you're capable of doing in the future for this potential employer.

Not sure how to answer these questions from your interviewer? Here's a quick guide on how to craft job-landing responses using the STAR interview method.

### Behavioral Interview Questions 1-5

#### Teamwork

For questions like these, you want a story that illustrates your ability to work with others under challenging circumstances. Think team conflict, difficult project constraints, or clashing personalities.

- Talk about a time when you had to work closely with someone whose personality was very different from yours.
- Give me an example of a time you faced a conflict while working on a team. How did you handle that?
- Describe a time when you struggled to build a relationship with someone important. How did you eventually overcome that?

- We all make mistakes we wish we could take back. Tell me about a time you wish you'd handled a situation differently with a colleague.
- Tell me about a time you needed to get information from someone who wasn't very responsive. What did you do?

### Behavioral Interview Questions 6-10

#### Client-facing Skills

If the role you're interviewing for works with clients, definitely be ready for one of these. Find an example of a time where you successfully represented your company or team and delivered exceptional customer service.

- Describe a time when it was especially important to make a good impression on a client. How did you go about doing so?
- Give me an example of a time when you did not meet a client's expectation. What happened, and how did you attempt to rectify the situation?
- Tell me about a time when you made sure a customer was pleased with your service.
- Describe a time when you had to interact with a difficult client. What was the situation, and how did you handle it?
- When you're working with a large number of customers, it's tricky to deliver excellent service to them all. How do you go about prioritizing your customers' needs?

### Behavioral Interview Questions 11-15

#### Ability to Adapt

Times of turmoil are finally good for something! Think of a recent work crisis you successfully navigated. Even if your navigation didn't feel successful at the time, find a lesson or silver lining you took from the situation.

- Tell me about a time you were under a lot of pressure. What was going on, and how did you get through it?

- Describe a time when your team or company was undergoing some change. How did that impact you, and how did you adapt?
- Tell me about the first job you've ever had. What did you do to learn the ropes?
- Give me an example of a time when you had to think on your feet in order to delicately extricate yourself from a difficult or awkward situation.
- Tell me about a time you failed. How did you deal with the situation?

### Behavioral Interview Questions 16-20

#### Time Management Skills

In other words, get ready to talk about a time you juggled multiple responsibilities, organized it all (perfectly), and completed everything before the deadline.

- Tell me about a time you had to be very strategic in order to meet all your top priorities.
- Describe a long-term project that you managed. How did you keep everything moving along in a timely manner?
- Sometimes it's just not possible to get everything on your to-do list done. Tell me about a time your responsibilities got a little overwhelming. What did you do?
- Tell me about a time you set a goal for yourself. How did you go about ensuring that you would meet your objective?
- Give me an example of a time you managed numerous responsibilities. How did you handle that?

### Behavioral Interview Questions 21-25

#### Communication Skills

You probably won't have any trouble thinking of a story for communication questions, since it's not only part of most jobs; it's part of everyday life. However, the thing to remember here is to also talk about your thought process or preparation.

- Give me an example of a time when you were able to successfully persuade someone to see things your way at work.

- Describe a time when you were the resident technical expert. What did you do to make sure everyone was able to understand you?
- Tell me about a time when you had to rely on written communication to get your ideas across to your team.
- Give me an example of a time when you had to explain something fairly complex to a frustrated client. How did you handle this delicate situation?
- Tell me about a successful presentation you gave and why you think it was a hit.

### Behavioral Interview Questions 26-30

#### Motivation and Values

A lot of seemingly random interview questions are actually attempts to learn more about what motivates you. Your response would ideally address this directly even if the question wasn't explicit about it.

- Tell me about your proudest professional accomplishment.
- Describe a time when you saw some problem and took the initiative to correct it rather than waiting for someone else to do it.
- Tell me about a time when you worked under close supervision or extremely loose supervision. How did you handle that?
- Give me an example of a time you were able to be creative with your work. What was exciting or difficult about it?
- Tell me about a time you were dissatisfied in your work. What could have been done to make it better?

Source: <https://www.themuse.com/advice/30-behavioral-interview-questions-you-should-be-ready-to-answer>