



Unit 32 Talking your way into a job

Task 09

Announcer: Listen to some of the most common questions asked in job interviews and the answers from Peter and Harry. Decide which answer you liked most.

Interviewer: Can you tell me about your current job?

Announcer: Peter's answer:

Peter: I have been with my present company for over five years now: Four years as an apprentice and one year as a skilled worker. We are only ten people and the work is not challenging. I'm looking for a new challenge and I think in a large, international company such as yours, not only can I develop my talents, but I'm confident that I can help your company, too, with all the training I've had.

Announcer: Harry's answer:

Harry: You know, in my current job my boss thinks he owns me. He never gives me any time to breathe and it's really boring. I'm looking for good working conditions.

Interviewer: What is the biggest success you have had in the past 3 years?

Announcer: Peter's answer:

Peter: I was really glad to pass the final apprenticeship leaving exam. We really partied hard then ...

Announcer: Harry's answer:

Harry: My biggest success was the final apprenticeship leaving exam, passing with merit. I was diligent enough to learn some new things like project coordination and had great first success with customer contacts.

Interviewer: How would your boss describe your work?

Announcer: Peter's answer:

Peter: This is a tricky question. ... Best you ask him? ... Or better not.

Announcer: Harry's answer:

Harry: Well, he might say that I have the right attitude to work. E.g. I arrive early, so I can plan my day and that I have a good manner with customers.



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Interviewer: What is your greatest strength?

Announcer: Peter's answer:

Peter: My main strength is I truly enjoy working with people, so I'm motivated when working in a good team and giving motivation to others around me. I'm quick on the uptake and I can cope well under pressure, too.

Announcer: Harry's answer:

Harry: I'm self-confident, good with girls, and I can drive a car fast without the police ever catching me.

Interviewer: And what are your weaknesses?

Announcer: Peter's answer:

Peter: I used to be late all the time, so now I set all my clocks and watches too fast at odd minutes (7, 9, 11 min), so that I'm never late as they are all different.

Announcer: Harry's answer:

Harry: I party often too much the weekends, then I'm always tired at the beginning of the week ... but I'm really trying to reduce this, now.

Interviewer: Why do you want to work for us?

Announcer: Peter's answer:

Peter: I'm looking for a real company like yours with proper working conditions.

Announcer: Harry's answer:

Harry: I'm impressed with the quality of your products and services. I'm confident that I can contribute to the further success of your company.

Interviewer: Where do you see yourself in five years' time?

Announcer: Peter's answer:

Peter: As I have recently completed my training, I'm really enthusiastic about using those skills to gradually take on more responsibility and challenges over the next five years. I would be really delighted to gain some international experience, if possible with your organisation.

Announcer: Harry's answer:

Harry: Clearly, as one of the team leaders, I'd want to earn some good money. I've been working hard enough to be a skilled worker!