

Things Never to Say on a Job Interview

Posted on January 2, 2013



So your hard work has paid off and you received the call in for an interview. You've done your research on the company, started a list of anticipated questions and practiced answering questions and interviewing. But do you know what questions to skip during the job interview? Asking the wrong questions could derail your chances of landing the job. In [Nine Things Never to Say on a Job Interview](#), Amanda Greene Kelly provides questions and statements to stay away from. Check out these four key statements on her list:

1. "I'm leaving my current job because my boss is terrible to work for."

Don't badmouth your boss, your old company and your coworkers. Lisa Quast, a certified executive coach and author of *Your Career, Your Way!*, says the interviewer may have previously worked for the same company or could be your boss's best friend. Julie Lacouture, co-owner of Mom Corps Los Angeles, says talking badly about your boss in the interview can make you come across as a disgruntled employee. Be positive and if you're asked about your boss, focus on how you work together successfully despite your differences.

2. "I love your glasses!"

You may think that complimenting your interviewer will create a connection, and possibly score you brownie points for your good taste. But there's a fine line between praise and flattery. These statements could be seen as fake or flirtatious," says. According to Cheryl Palmer, a certified career coach, a safer conversation starter is to comment on an award or picture in that person's office.

3. "I haven't been able to find a job because of the bad economy."

Blaming your situation on the tough market will make you seem passive. Instead, focus on the positives, suggests Kate Alderfer, who works on staffing for a consulting company in Pennsylvania. Try something like: "I've been focusing my career search to jobs that relate to my expertise in X, Y and Z. It's been challenging, yet exciting, to explore potential opportunities." When asked what you've been doing since your last job, be clear that finding the perfect position has been at the forefront of your efforts.

4. "I don't have a salary range in mind—I'm flexible."

The recruiter may see you as uninformed about your industry, says Lacouture. Even worse, she may see it as an opportunity to give you the lowest possible offer. Instead, to do research beforehand about what similar jobs pay, and give an appropriate range. See our [March 28 blog post](#) about salary negotiation for more guidance.

We recommend [CareerOneStop](#) to find appropriate wage ranges for jobs similar to the one you are interviewing for.



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Other statements and questions on Kelly's list speak to these mistakes during the job interview:

1. Sharing too much personal information.
2. Failing to show the employer that you have done your research on the company and wish to work specifically there.
3. Showing interest in company benefits instead of focusing on what you can do for the employer, (unless the employer indicates they wish to hire you).
4. Providing information about your weaknesses without being asked.

To get more details and read the rest of the questions and statements on Kelly's list, [click here](#).

