ENGLISH STORY PODCAST

English at the Job Interview

Easy answers for common interview questions

EPISODE 07 | LEVEL A2-B1

Listen and read with Mia and Jake. Then practise clear, polite answers you can use in a real job interview.

Today's Small Win
Write one sentence about a strength and say it aloud three times.

Episode Guide

What you will learn

• How to introduce yourself in a job interview.

• How to explain why you want the job and describe your strengths.

• How to answer a problem-solving question with problem, action, and result.

• Polite questions to ask at the end of an interview.

Word Box

interview	a meeting where someone asks you questions about a job
experience	work or useful activities you did before
strength	something you are good at
position	a job or role in a company

Say It Like This

“Thank you for having me.”

“I have experience in customer service.”

“One of my strengths is communication.”

“Could you tell me more about the position?”

“Thank you for your time.”

Listen & Read Transcript

Read along while you listen. Audio-performance tags have been removed for easier reading.

MIA	Good morning, Jake. Thank you for coming in today. Please, have a seat.
JAKE	Thank you. It's very nice to be here.
MIA	So, tell me. Why do you want to work at our bakery?
JAKE	Because I love bread, and I love cookies, and I'm very hungry right now.
MIA	Jake. This is an interview.
JAKE	I know, I know. That was a practice answer. A bad one.
MIA	Hello everyone, and welcome to the English Story Podcast. I'm Mia.
JAKE	And I'm Jake, the man who wants a job at a bakery.
MIA	Today we're talking about job interviews in English. You'll learn simple answers for the most common questions, polite phrases to use, and how to ask your own questions at the end.
JAKE	And this episode is for everyone. It doesn't matter if you want to work in a bakery, an office, a hospital, or a shop. The ideas are the same.
MIA	Before we start, a quick tip. You can read the full transcript of this episode on our website, and listen to the audio while you read. The link is in the description, along with our free ebooks.
JAKE	Lots of valuable help, and all of it is free. So make yourself comfortable. Get a cup of tea, or coffee, or water, and just listen to us talk.
MIA	Let's start with a small truth. An interview is not a test of perfect English. It's a conversation, and the other person wants to know you.
JAKE	That makes me feel better.
MIA	Good. Here's our first step. Start kindly. When you meet the interviewer, you can say, "Nice to meet you." Or, "Thank you for having me."
JAKE	Thank you for having me. That sounds polite.
MIA	And when the interview finishes, you can say, "Thank you for your time."
JAKE	Time is precious. I like that sentence too.
MIA	It's time for our Word Box. These are four useful words for today. Listen, and then repeat after us.

JAKE	The first word is interview. An interview is a meeting where someone asks you questions about a job.
MIA	Interview. For example, I have a job interview on Friday.
JAKE	The next word is experience. Experience is the work or activities you did before.
MIA	Experience. For example, I have two years of experience in customer service.
JAKE	The next word is strength. A strength is something you are good at.
MIA	Strength. For example, one of my strengths is listening.
JAKE	And the last word is position. A position is a job.
MIA	Position. For example, I'm interested in the sales position.
MIA	Let's say them one more time. Interview.
JAKE	Interview.
MIA	Experience.
JAKE	Experience.
MIA	Strength.
JAKE	Strength.
MIA	Position.
JAKE	Position.
JAKE	Great job, everyone. You will hear these words again in the story.
MIA	Now, question one. The most common question. "Tell me about yourself."
JAKE	Oh, I know this one. We did a whole episode about it.
MIA	Yes. If you want more practice, you can listen to our episode called "Tell Me About Yourself." But for an interview, the answer is a little different.
JAKE	How is it different?
MIA	In a normal conversation, you can talk about hobbies. In an interview, choose details that connect to the job. Use three small parts. Who you are, your experience, and why you're interested.
JAKE	Who I am, my experience, and why I'm interested.

MIA	Exactly. For example, "I'm Jake. I have two years of experience working in a cafe. I enjoy helping customers, and I'm interested in this position because I love fresh bread."
JAKE	That's much better than "I'm hungry."
MIA	It is. Notice that it's short. About four sentences is enough.
JAKE	Let's try it. Imagine you want a job at a shop. Tell us who you are, one piece of experience, and why you're interested.
YOUR TURN	Pause and answer aloud.
MIA	Good. You can say it again tomorrow, and it will become easier.
JAKE	Question two. "Why do you want this job?"
MIA	A good answer has a reason, and the reason should be true. For example, "I'm interested in this position because I enjoy working with people." Or, "I'm interested in this position because I want to learn new skills."
JAKE	And what about a bad answer?
MIA	"Because I need money" is honest, but it doesn't help the interviewer. You can say something real, but connect it to the job.
JAKE	So I can say, "I'm looking for a stable job, and I like this company because it's close to my home, and I enjoy working with customers."
MIA	That's a very good answer. Honest, and friendly.
JAKE	Question three. "What are your strengths?"
MIA	Choose one or two, and give a short example. "One of my strengths is communication. I'm good at explaining things clearly." Or, "One of my strengths is being organized. I always plan my week."
JAKE	And what if I don't feel confident?
MIA	Think about what other people say about you. Do friends say you are patient? Do coworkers say you are on time? Those are strengths.
JAKE	My friends say I'm funny.
MIA	Funny is great for a party. For the interview, we say, "I'm friendly, and I enjoy working with a team."
JAKE	Okay. Friendly, and good with a team.
MIA	Now, a harder question. "What is something you're still learning?" Some interviewers ask about weaknesses.

JAKE	That sounds scary.
MIA	It doesn't have to be. Choose something small and real, and say what you're doing about it. For example, "I'm still improving my English, and I practice every day." Or, "I sometimes feel nervous when I speak in meetings, so I'm practicing with friends."
JAKE	That's honest, and it shows I want to grow.
MIA	Exactly. Don't say, "I'm perfect." Nobody believes that.
JAKE	My mother believes it.
MIA	Mothers are different. Now, question five. "Tell me about a time you solved a problem."
JAKE	That one sounds long.
MIA	It can be short. Use three small steps. The problem, what you did, and the result.
JAKE	Problem, action, result. Let me try. "At my last job, a customer was angry because his order was late. I listened to him, and I said sorry. Then I brought him a new coffee and a cookie, and he thanked me."
MIA	Perfect. Short, clear, and positive.
JAKE	And a cookie. That was the secret.
MIA	If you don't have work experience, you can use school, volunteering, or family. For example, "In my class project, our group was late. I made a small plan, and we finished on time." Always tell the truth, and don't invent experience.
JAKE	Right. Real examples are better.
MIA	Now, the last question that many interviewers ask. "Do you have any questions for us?"
JAKE	Oh no. That is where I always say, "No, thank you."
MIA	Many people do. But a question shows you are interested. Here are three easy ones. "Could you tell me more about the position?" "What does a normal day look like?" "What are the next steps?"
JAKE	Could you tell me more about the position? That uses could, from our last episode.
MIA	Exactly. Could is polite, so it's perfect for an interview.
JAKE	What does a normal day look like? And, what are the next steps?
MIA	Yes. That last one means, what happens after the interview?
JAKE	I think I can do this.

MIA	Let's try a short mock interview. I'm the interviewer, and Jake is the candidate. Listen, and notice the answers.
MIA	Good morning, Jake. Thank you for coming. Please, tell me about yourself.
JAKE	Good morning, and thank you for having me. I'm Jake. I have two years of experience working in a cafe, and I enjoy helping customers. I'm interested in this position because I love fresh bread.
MIA	Why do you want to work here?
JAKE	Because I enjoy working with people, and I want to learn how to bake.
MIA	What is one of your strengths?
JAKE	One of my strengths is being friendly. I'm also on time, and I work well with a team.
MIA	Tell me about a time you solved a problem.
JAKE	At my last job, a customer was unhappy because his order was late. I listened, I said sorry, and I brought him a new coffee. He thanked me, and he came back the next day.
MIA	That's a good example. Do you have any questions for us?
JAKE	Yes, please. Could you tell me more about the position? And what are the next steps?
MIA	We'll contact you next week. Thank you for your time, Jake.
JAKE	Thank you very much. I look forward to hearing from you.
MIA	That was a calm, clear interview. Did you notice how short the answers were?
JAKE	Short answers, one real example, and polite phrases. That's the secret.
MIA	And now it's time for our segment called Say It Like This.
JAKE	Here are five phrases for your next interview. Repeat after us. Thank you for having me.
MIA	Thank you for having me.
JAKE	I have experience in customer service.
MIA	I have experience in customer service.
JAKE	One of my strengths is communication.
MIA	One of my strengths is communication.
JAKE	Could you tell me more about the position?

MIA	Could you tell me more about the position?
JAKE	Thank you for your time.
MIA	Thank you for your time.
MIA	Very good. Now you have five small phrases, and each one makes you sound calm and polite.
JAKE	And now it's time for our Mini Story. This is a short story with today's new words inside it.
MIA	Our story today is about a woman called Priya. Priya wanted a position in a small bookstore, and she had her first interview in English. She felt very nervous. She didn't have much experience, but she loved books.
MIA	The night before, she wrote three short answers on a card. Who she was, why she was interested, and one strength. She read them out loud five times, and she practiced in front of the mirror.
MIA	The next morning, she arrived early. She smiled and said, "Thank you for having me." The manager asked, "Tell me about yourself." Priya took a breath, and she said, "I'm Priya. I'm still new to this kind of work, but I read every day, and I enjoy helping people find the right book. One of my strengths is listening."
MIA	The manager smiled. At the end, Priya asked, "What are the next steps?" Three days later, she got a call. The manager said, "We'd like you to join our team." Priya was so happy, she read her favorite book that night.
JAKE	I love that story. Poor Priya, so nervous, and so prepared.
MIA	Preparation is a very good friend.
JAKE	Did you notice our words? Interview, experience, strength, and position were all in the story.
MIA	That is why we tell stories. When you hear new words inside a story, they are easier to remember.
JAKE	Can you remember one thing Priya said about her strength?
YOUR TURN	Pause and answer aloud.
MIA	She said, "One of my strengths is listening." Short, honest, and useful.
JAKE	And now it's time for our last segment, called Your Turn.
MIA	Okay, now it's your turn. I'll ask you interview questions, and you answer out loud, or in your head. Short answers are perfect.
JAKE	Question one. Tell me about yourself.
YOUR TURN	Pause and answer aloud.

MIA	Here's a sample. "I'm Daniel. I have one year of experience in a supermarket. I'm interested in this position because I enjoy working with customers."
JAKE	Question two. What is one of your strengths?
YOUR TURN	Pause and answer aloud.
MIA	A sample answer is, "One of my strengths is being organized. I always make a list."
JAKE	Question three. Tell me about a time you solved a problem.
YOUR TURN	Pause and answer aloud.
MIA	A sample is, "In my class project, our group was late. I made a small plan, and we finished on time."
JAKE	Question four. Do you have any questions for us?
YOUR TURN	Pause and answer aloud.
MIA	A sample is, "Could you tell me more about the position? And what are the next steps?"
JAKE	Good work, everyone. If your answers felt hard, try again tomorrow. Practice makes it easier.
MIA	And if you answered even a little in English, then you just practiced a real interview. Congratulations.
JAKE	Before we finish, let's remember the steps.
MIA	Start kindly. Say, "Nice to meet you," or, "Thank you for having me."
JAKE	Tell me about yourself. Who you are, your experience, and why you're interested.
MIA	Give honest answers with one real example.
JAKE	Ask a question at the end.
MIA	And say, "Thank you for your time."
JAKE	And remember, interviewers are people too. They want to find someone kind, honest, and ready to learn.
MIA	Before we go, here is Today's Small Win. A small win is a very small task that you can finish today, and it makes you feel good.
JAKE	Today's Small Win is this. Write one sentence about a strength, and say it out loud three times. For example, "One of my strengths is communication."

MIA	It only takes one minute. And you can use it in your next interview, or in any conversation.
JAKE	Now, we have a question for you in the comments. What's one strength you could talk about in an interview? Write it in English, with one short example. And if you'd like to share only part of it, that's fine.
MIA	We read the comments, and we love to see your sentences. So please write one, even if you feel shy. You can do it.
JAKE	And remember, you can read the full transcript of this episode on our website, and listen to the audio while you read. The link is in the description, with our free ebooks.
MIA	If this episode helped you today, please give it a like, and share it with a friend who is looking for a job. And if you haven't subscribed yet, please subscribe to the English Story Podcast, so you can find our next episode.
JAKE	Thank you so much for spending this time with us.
MIA	Keep listening, keep practicing, and remember, your English is already better than it was yesterday.
JAKE	Take care, everyone. And good luck with your interview.
MIA	Goodbye, and see you in the next episode.

Practice Exercises

1. Match the Word

1. interview 2. experience 3. strength 4. position

A. something you are good at B. a job role C. work you did before D. a meeting about a job

2. Complete the Interview Answers

1. Thank you for _____ me.
2. I have two years of _____ in customer service.
3. One of my _____ is communication.
4. I am interested in this _____ because I enjoy helping people.
5. Could you tell me more about the _____?
6. Thank you for your _____.

3. Build Your “Tell Me About Yourself” Answer

My name is _____.

I have experience in _____.

I enjoy _____.

I am interested in this position because _____.

4. Choose the Best Answer

1. “Why do you want this job?”
A. Because I need money. B. Because I enjoy working with people and want to learn new skills.
2. “What is one of your strengths?”
A. I am organized, and I always plan my week. B. I am perfect.
3. “Do you have any questions for us?”
A. No. B. Could you tell me what a normal day looks like?
4. “Tell me about a problem you solved.”
A. Give a short real example. B. Invent a story that sounds impressive.

Speaking Practice

5. Practise Your Answers Aloud

1. Tell me about yourself.

2. Why do you want this job?

3. What is one of your strengths?

4. What is something you are still learning?

5. Tell me about a time you solved a problem.

6. Do you have any questions for us?

6. Problem - Action - Result

Problem: What happened? _____

Action: What did you do? _____

Result: What happened next? _____

Answer Key & Sample Answers

1. Match the Word

1-D, 2-C, 3-A, 4-B

2. Complete the Interview Answers

1. having 2. experience 3. strengths 4. position 5. position 6. time

4. Choose the Best Answer

1-B, 2-A, 3-B, 4-A

Sample: Tell Me About Yourself

“I'm Daniel. I have one year of experience working in a supermarket. I enjoy helping customers, and I'm interested in this position because I like working with people.”

Sample: Strength

“One of my strengths is being organized. I always make a list and finish important tasks on time.”

Sample: Problem - Action - Result

“In a class project, our group was late. I made a small plan and shared the tasks. We finished on time.”

Questions You Can Ask

- Could you tell me more about the position?
- What does a normal day look like?
- What are the next steps?