

Typical interview questions

Example questions to help to prepare for your apprenticeship interview.

The phrase 'practice makes perfect' comes to mind when you think about initially preparing for an interview. We have selected some commonly asked questions and included some guidance on how you can support your child to think about their answers and start to prepare ahead of their apprenticeship interview.

Questions about yourself

What are your strengths and weaknesses?

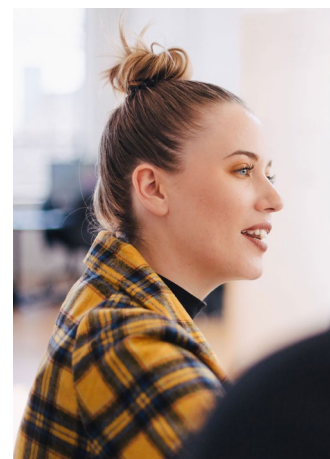
How would you best describe yourself?

What skills have you developed from any work experience or previous employment?

Young people can sometimes find it hard to come up with examples of what they are good at. They might also be embarrassed to talk confidently about their strengths and worry that they sound like they're showing off.

Help them to identify their strengths and then practice explaining how they are relevant to the job role.

Are they great team players or leaders? Are they extremely organised? Do they have good digital skills? Are they good at caring for others? What have their teachers & friends said positively about them?



Questions about the employer

What research have you carried out about our company?

Why do you want to work here?

What do you know about our products or services?

Employers will expect their candidates to have carried out some research about the company that they are applying to.

They don't have to know everything about the company, but showing that they are interested and have made an effort to find out about the main products and services of the business is important. You can start by looking on the company's website and reading their latest news on social media.

If you really want to stand out, showing that you have gone over and above to learn more will be admired by the employer. For example, if they are a retailer - visit a store and perhaps visit a competitor. What do you notice? If they have won an award recently, what was it for and who else in their sector or industry has won it previously? If they create consumable products - run a taste test and compare the different flavours. Which do you prefer and why?

Questions about the job

What do you think the main tasks and responsibilities will be?

Are there any aspects of the job description that you're not sure about?

Which parts of the job do you think will be most enjoyable / challenging for you?

When reading a job description, it is useful to go through it and to pick out the different tasks listed and any skills listed that you think are a good match. Then, re-read it and identify anything you don't understand. Your child may want to research certain words, tasks or the specialist equipment that may be used in that work environment.

It is really useful to look online for any apprentice case studies that the company has published, which should provide some more direct insight into what the role is like. Some of these are also filmed so you can see the work environment too.