



## Common Interview Questions for Teachers

A typical interview will last approximately 30 minutes. During that brief time, you may be asked as few as 8-10 questions. Therefore, your responses to those questions are crucial. You have 30 minutes to sell your services! Since it is impossible to know exactly which questions will be asked, prepare for a variety of questions. Consider participating in a mock interview with your College Career Consultant or in Mock Interview Day sponsored each semester by OSU Career Services. These are excellent ways to improve your skills and network with professionals in the area.

### FIVE PRACTICAL INTERVIEWING TIPS

1. Speak in specifics rather than in generalities. Think of the interview as a process of storytelling in which your role is to clearly illustrate your personal qualities and life experiences.
2. If you don't understand a question, ask for clarification or paraphrase the question back to the interviewer.
3. Stress important skills that all employers seek, including initiative, honesty, reliability, teamwork and communication skills. Use personal examples to reinforce these qualities.
4. Be honest at all times. Integrity is a highly valued quality in today's world.
5. Be yourself. Beyond the professional skills and education you bring to the interview, the decision is also based on whether your personality fits with the culture of the organization.

### 50 QUESTIONS FOR A TEACHING CANDIDATE

1. Why do you want to teach?
2. What is your philosophy of education?
3. When students are having difficulty learning a skill or concept, what do you do?
4. Describe your style of teaching.
5. Would you like to be involved in community or school-related activities?
6. What do you plan to be doing in five years? What are your career goals?
7. Describe your student teaching and/or other experiences working with children.
8. What was your biggest problem in student teaching? How did you resolve it?
9. How would your instructors describe you? The students in your class? Your cooperating teacher(s)?
10. How do you personalize your teaching?
11. What techniques would you use to keep students actively involved and motivated during a lesson?
12. What methods do you use for classroom management?
13. When students finish assignments early, how do you encourage them to utilize free time?
14. How would you work with students who perform below grade level, especially those from disadvantaged socioeconomic backgrounds or who have little family support?
15. What coursework has contributed most to your being a competent teacher?
16. How would you utilize teacher aides and parent volunteers?
17. Are parent-teacher conferences important? Why?
18. Why do you want to work in our district?
19. What materials have you used that you find most effective for students with special needs?
20. Why should our school district hire you over another candidate?
21. Describe an ideal classroom?
22. Describe the types of quizzes and tests that you give.
23. A student is consistently late to your class. How do you handle the situation?
24. What would you do if a student refused to do the work you assigned?
25. How would you handle a student who continually exhibited "inappropriate" behavior in your classroom?



## *Common Interview Questions for Teachers*

---

*(continued)*

26. How do you engage a parent in the education of his or her child?
27. How should a student's educational achievement and progress be measured?
28. You are informed that a staff member has been talking behind your back about what he or she sees as your ineffective teaching methods. What would you do?
29. What do you expect from your principal?
30. What is one of your development areas? How are you working to overcome this area?
31. If I walked into your classroom on a typical day, what would I see?
32. What are some trends, issues, and methodologies in education that relate to your specific curriculum area or grade level?
33. What books are you currently reading or have recently read?
34. What special skills or talents will you bring to your classroom?
35. Would you be willing to teach at a different grade level (elementary) or teach a different subject (math vs. history)? Why or why not?
36. Would you be willing to pursue an extra certificate or credential?
37. What is your philosophy of team teaching?
38. What were you hoping we would ask you today, but didn't?
39. At what point do you involve the principal in a discipline matter?
40. What are your plans for professional growth?
41. What experience do you have with this age group?
42. What would you do if you walked into the teacher's lounge and heard a group of teachers speaking unprofessionally about a student?
43. Who are some people who have had a great impact on your life?
44. What kind of principal would you appreciate most?
45. What do you know about our school district?
46. What provides you the greatest pleasure in teaching?
47. How do you feel about integrating students with special needs into your classroom?
48. Are there any undesirable aspects you can think of about teaching?
49. Do you feel your job as a teacher goes beyond 3 pm?
50. Do you have any questions that we could answer about the position, school, or district?

Sources:

*2001 Job Search Handbook for Educators, American Association for Employment in Education*  
*Inside Secrets of Finding a Teaching Job, Jack Warner and Clyde Bryan*