

## More tricky interview questions and answers

### 1. Why are utility hole covers round?

This question tests your spatial reasoning and logic. There are a few specific points that answer this accurately. The right response lets your employer know you can assess objects in three-dimensional form. This question also gives your prospective employer a chance to see how you approach an unexpected challenge.

**Example:** *“A round utility hole cover cannot fall through the hole, whereas a square cover could fall in if it were aligned diagonally. You can also roll a round cover to move it more easily, and placement is simpler because it doesn’t have to be aligned with corners.”*

### 2. Where will you be standing at the office holiday party?

This tricky question helps the interviewer envision where your personality might fit in the overall landscape of the [work environment](#). Your approach to a holiday party lets your prospective employer determine which position you might take on a team. An introvert is likely to be at a dinner table, while the extrovert will be on the dance floor. A follower might be at the back of a food line, while a leader will announce the raffle winners.

Provide an answer that gives insight into your social strengths.

**Example:** *“I would be handing out candy canes to get to know everyone there. At my previous job, I always made a batch of cookies for our last day in the office before the holiday break. I think small treats are a great way to create conversations and spread holiday cheer.”*

### 3. What’s your dream job?

This question is tricky because an overly obvious response is to name the job for which you’re currently applying. However, suggesting another position could make it seem like you’re not serious about the current opportunity. Choose a response that demonstrates your desire to grow within the company.

**Example:** *“My dream job would be to climb from marketing agent to [marketing manager](#), and have the opportunity to oversee the entire department. I’ve been attending seminars to improve my leadership skills for future opportunities in management.”*

#### **4. You have a three-gallon jug and a five-gallon jug. How can you measure four gallons?**

**Example:** *“Fill the three-gallon jug and pour it into the five-gallon jug. Fill the three-gallon jug again and pour it into the five-gallon jug until it’s full. There should be one gallon remaining in the three-gallon jug. Empty the five-gallon jug and pour the one gallon into this. Refill the three-gallon jug, and after emptying it into the other one, you should have a total of four gallons.”*

#### **5. How does this job compare to the others you’re interviewing for?**

**Example:** *“I’ve applied for several similar positions, but I haven’t yet determined which one is the best fit. I like the cross-functional approach your team takes here and feel that my diverse skill set would be well-suited to that type of approach.”*

#### **6. If you were a tree, what species would you be and why?**

Your interviewer may ask this question to get some unique insights into your personality and how you think. This question can also be framed as the flower, animal or bird that you’d like to be. Provide a thoughtful response that reveals one of your personality strengths.

**Example:** *“I consider myself to be fairly strong yet flexible—able to withstand almost any storm—so I feel I’m most like a palm tree. Palm trees can also thrive in a variety of environments and seem like they could keep growing indefinitely, and I always strive for growth in my career.”*

#### **7. What’s your personal theme song?**

The answer to this question can give your employer an idea of how you approach your job.

**Example:** *“My personal theme song is ‘Taking Care of Business.’ I like to focus on getting things done, but I also enjoy what I’m doing and find it easy to rock through the workday with enthusiasm.”*