

# Lesson 3: Acing the Interview

## Activity A: Translation: What the Interviewer is Really

Prior to beginning this activity show the interview video, *Video 4–3: Alex*, which can be accessed from our companion website located at <http://www.pluralpublishing.com/publication/aasip17>

1. **Tell me a little about yourself.** Think in terms of brevity. Identify three to four things about yourself and how this may help you in the workplace.

**Example:** *I have five brothers and sisters, and growing up I had to learn how to share, compromise, and work with everyone.*

**Example:** *I come from a small Midwestern farming community and while I moved to the big city when I was 14 years old, I think I still have that Midwestern, small town work ethic. I am a hard worker.*

2. **What is your greatest strength?** Think in terms of how this may be advantageous to the prospective employee.

**Example:** *I am detail oriented, a critical thinker, a people person, and a hard worker, which would make me a good fit for your company.*

3. **What is your biggest weakness?** Give an example of a weakness and also provide the “positive solution” to your challenge.

**Example:** *I have time management issues, especially if I am having a hard time figuring something out. I’ve learned to create a schedule for myself to keep me focused so that I don’t lose track of time on my other responsibilities.*

**Example:** *When I am challenged by something that I can’t figure out, I’ve learned to ask for help. And I accept the fact that it’s OK if I don’t have the answer to every problem. I can ask a coworker or a team member for assistance.*

4. **How do you respond under pressure?** Answer honestly, but think in terms of how this could be handled in the workplace.

**Example:** *I get a little frustrated when I’m under pressure, but I will sometimes take a brief relaxation break to regroup and recharge. I usually come back refreshed and ready to work again.*

**Example:** *I thrive under pressure. I will work around the clock until I complete the job.*

5. **What kind of boss do you work with best?** Be honest and forthright, realizing that bosses are humans, too. Think in terms of what might be a deal breaker for you.

**Example:** *I work best with someone who is respectful of me. You sometimes hear of bosses who verbally take their frustrations out on their employees and I would probably not do well in that type of environment.* Be prepared to explain specifics.

6. **What three things would your previous boss say about you?** This is tricky because your previous employer may be called for a reference. Answer honestly. If your previous boss has nothing good to say, make it a point to leave the next job in good standing.

**Example:** *I now realize my last job was not a good fit because I didn't consider . . . I have spent the last **x number of months** reflecting on what went wrong and am committed.*  
(Describe what you will do to change your behavior.)