

A Job Interview Translation

Hello everyone, welcome to this new episode of Super Easy French. Today, put on your best business suit, because we're going to talk about job interviews: here are some tips that can help you land the job of your dreams in a French-speaking country!. Let's go!

This is Léa. Léa's dream is to become a French teacher. Today, she's got an interview at the French institute in Bern. She has been preparing for this interview for a week now. Let's see how it goes!

At the reception desk

Hello, I'm here for the interview with the Director (female).

Hello! You're Mrs...?

Mrs. Dubois.

All right, please wait here,
the Director will be right with you (in a few minutes).

Hello Mrs. Dubois, sorry for the wait! Please, follow me.

The job interview

Please, have a seat. So, Léa, I read your resume/CV, and I must say, I was very impressed! Three internships, two of them abroad, a double Bachelor's degree, a Masters... you have an interesting background. But I was intrigued to see that you spent one year without working after your studies. What did you do during this gap year?

Wrong answer: I went on a bus tour of Europe with two girlfriends of mine. I partied every night to clear my head.

Right answer: After 5 years of hard work to get my diploma....I needed to take some time for myself to reflect on what meaning to give to my life, so I set out to discover Europe, to broaden/expand my horizons by discovering new cultures.

Why are you interested in this position?

I am passionate about teaching and French, and the values of transmission and sharing carried by the institute speak particularly to me.

Why do you think you are the best candidate for this position?

I am extremely motivated and willing to give 100% to meet the expectations of both the institute and students.

What are your strengths?

Um... I would say my creativity, my seriousness and my empathy for the students.

What are your weaknesses?

Wrong answer: Um... I leave things until the last minute and I always oversleep in the morning...

Right answer: I lack some computer skills, I must admit...

What are your hobbies?

I'm fairly/quite sporty, I love running and yoga. I also do some painting and manual work/crafts.

It is unlikely that you will be asked this question. Don't be surprised: in France, people won't focus on your private life during an interview. It is your academic and professional background that counts.

Why did you quit your last job?

Wrong - I was bored to death, the boss was obnoxious and there was a bad working atmosphere.

Right - I was not fully satisfied with the salary and working conditions.

What are your salary expectations?

Wrong - Frankly, just give me something to live on and to pay my rent and transport card with, and I'll be satisfied.

Right - As a certified teaching professional, I wish to be paid at least 30 euros, net per hour.

What is your availability (and when is it effective)?

I am available to work full-time. I have no particular/specific constraints.

Do you have any questions?

- What will be my margin of freedom in choosing teaching materials and methods?
- Does the institute require a particular approach to teaching?
- Are the teachers encouraged to work as a team on joint projects, or is each one independent?

You should always ask questions, it shows that you are interested and have really thought about the position.

All right, I think I have everything I need. Great, I won't keep you any longer. We'll get back to you. I'll get back to you in a few days.

See you soon.

Goodbye.