Tell me about yourself
**Tell me about yourself**

**Introduction**

- Where to start? What do they want to know? Should you start in high school, college, first grade?

- This is one of the most frequently asked questions in an interview. The way you answer this question will set the tone for the rest of the interview.

- This can be a challenging question to answer if you are not prepared for it, but it’s really asked as an icebreaker.
Tell me about yourself

Introduction

- This is an open-ended question, but what the interviewer wants to hear is about your recent work experience.

- Why don’t they just ask that question?

- Because they want to see where you will go with an open-ended question. Your answer tells the interviewer where your mind is. If you start telling him that you are a Cleveland Browns fan, then you are way off base with what he wants to hear and you have just made your first mistake.
**Tell me about yourself**

**Introduction**

- What do you want the interviewer to know about you when you leave?

- Your work experience or your personal interests?

- I’m confident their hiring decision will be based on your work experience, so save your personal interests for the water cooler after you get the job.
Tell me about yourself

Introduction

- **Wrong answer:**

  - “What would you like to know?”

  - This statement completely throws the question back at the interviewer in somewhat of an insulting way and he/she is forced to reword the question.
Tell me about yourself

Best way to answer

- Talk about what brought you to this point in your career and the related jobs you’ve held up to this point. But it’s important to keep your answer on topic and related to your career.

- For some people, they might start their story when they were 18 years old and realized they wanted to be a banker.

- So they would talk about why they enjoy finance and what it is specifically they enjoy and why they want to pursue banking as a career.
Tell me about yourself

Best way to answer

- Then they would talk about the different types of finance jobs or related volunteer work they have done to support their career goal.

- For others, they may have realized they wanted to be a fireman when they were 6 years old and carried that dream their whole life until they were of age.

- For them, they would start their story from age 6, but quickly progress up to current times. It would be ideal for them to talk about why they want to be a fireman and any extracurricular activities they have done that support this passion.
Tell me about yourself

Best way to answer

- Even though there is no one right way to answer this question, I’m sure by now you can see where I’m going with this.

- Quite simply, your answer should be about your journey. How you got started, where you at right now, and where you want to be.

- Don’t bore, the interviewer with a long story. Stay on topic and keep it related to the job. If you had a side job in a bakery, but you’re interviewing for jobs in finance, then leave off the cupcakes. As sweet as they are, your interviewer does not care.
Tell me about yourself

Best way to answer

- Focus on your answer and talk about your accomplishments from your current or most recent job and lightly touch on your daily duties.

- In addition to your journey, these are the things an interviewer really wants to hear. Because if he thinks you were successful at your past job, then you will be successful at this job.
Tell me about yourself

Best way to answer

- Even if you don’t feel that you accomplished anything, look deep and think of something you did that helped the company.

- Or better yet, describe an accomplishment that you contributed to the company, just make sure it’s in the same line of work. For example, don’t take credit for boosting sales revenue if your job is to fix computers.
Tell me about yourself

Best way to answer

- To re-cap the framework for this question:
- Talk about your journey.
- Briefly talk about your current employer.
- Discuss 2-3 of your most significant accomplishments.
- Talk about a few of your key strengths as they relate to the job for which you are applying and how they can benefit from your strengths.
- Then discuss how you see yourself fitting into a position at their company.
Tell me about yourself

Best way to answer

- This is one of the few questions I can’t give you an exact answer for because I don’t know anything about you, but here’s a few topics to consider:

- Speak of how you completed projects on time and under budget.

- Tell them how you increased sales revenues for two straight quarters in a row.

- Describe of how you came up with a new procedure that saved the company money.
Tell me about yourself

Elements of a best answer

- Here’s a couple of examples you might integrate into your answer – These are not whole answers but contain essential elements of a successful answer.

- “I have been in the customer service industry for several years and most of my experience has been dealing with calls from our customers. I truly enjoy working with the people in this business as well as the challenges.

- In my last job, the good relationships I formed with my customers resulted in me holding the highest customer retention rate of everyone else in my department.”
Tell me about yourself

Elements of a best answer

- “One of my best strengths is my attention to detail. When I set out to work on a task or project, I always make sure it gets done on time.”
Tell me about yourself

Best answer

- “I’m very dedicated to my career and a self-motivated team player with a strong desire to learn as many things as I can and to give the best in everything I do.

- I enjoy teaching and I have been giving private coaching sessions for several years to five different students, and one of them I’m still working with.

- Recently, I took two group tuition classes with four students each to stretch my capabilities. Relief teaching a class of 40 students will be an exciting challenge for me, and one that is the next logical step in my career.

- Most importantly, I consider a teaching career in the future and this is an excellent platform to test my abilities to see if I am a natural fit for private tutoring.
Tell me about yourself

Best answer

- During my school days, I’ve always been impressed by my teachers’ dedication and passion and have really looked up to them.

- Because of the impression my teachers have had on me, I would like to be more like them and feel strongly motivated to teach.”

- Obviously, this was a very specific and unique answer and though none of it will apply to you, it just goes to show you that there is no one right way to answer this question. Just make sure your answer has all the right elements I discussed and you’ll do just fine.

- End of answer