

TEACHERS INTERVIEW



For

TEACHERS



Happy English

CHAPTER 01

Personal Qualities

Personal Qualities



Tell me about yourself.

Sample response

Good morning, my name is Sean Porter. I would describe myself as adventurous and outgoing. Last year I traveled throughout Southeast Asia, traveling to four countries. I love learning about new cultures and meeting new people. This is one of the reasons why I want to teach at Montgomery High School. It has amazing diversity. I would take this same enthusiasm and apply it to learning more about my students and their backgrounds.

Vocabulary enrichment

Diversity *noun* \də-'vər-sə-tē, dī-\

- the state of having people who are of different races or who have different cultures in a group or organization

Enthusiasm *noun* \in-'thū-zē-, ə-zəm\

- strong excitement about something : a strong feeling of active interest in something that you like or enjoy.

Personal Qualities



What are your hobbies outside work ?

Sample response

My hobbies are watching movies and listening to songs. I'm into Jazz music and I like seeing films that are innovative and have strong story line. Recently, I have started reading books. One of the books which inspired me a lot is "Have a little Faith" by Mitch Albom. I also surf the internet to keep updated on the latest advancements and trends in the field of education and Training.

Vocabulary enrichment

Advancement *noun* \əd-'van(t)-smənt\

- the act or result of making something better, more successful, etc.

Innovative *adjective* \i-nə-,vā-tiv\

- introducing or using new ideas or methods

Personal Qualities



How would you describe your work ethics?

Sample response

I am an honest and sincere individual. I do not like to 'Boss around' to make my presence felt. I believe that I have a good problem-solving skill that enables me to tackle problems at the core level. For instance, due to my constant 'informal get-togethers' with the team members, I was able to realize their work pressure and thus, modify the approach in completing a task. As a result of which, the team worked enthusiastically and we excelled in overall expectations of our supervisors.

Vocabulary enrichment

Approach *noun* \ə-'prōch\

- a way of dealing with something : a way of doing or thinking about something.

Enthusiastic *adjective* \in-,thü-zē-'as-tik, en-, also -,thyü-\

- feeling or showing strong excitement about something

Personal Qualities



What other language/(s) are you interested in?

Sample response

I would be very interested to learn Spanish. Knowing a foreign language helps you understand your own language and culture better through comparison. It also gives you access to a greater range of information about your subject and enables you to communicate with students and professionals from other countries. It's also rewarding to overcome the challenges of learning a new language.

Vocabulary enrichment

Comparison *noun* \kəm-'per-ə-sən, -'pa-rə-\

- the act of looking at things to see how they are similar or different.

Overcome *verb* \,ō-vər-'kəm\

- to successfully deal with or gain control of (something difficult).

Personal Qualities



What was your favorite subject in High School and why?

Sample response

My Algebra class was what inspired me to take advanced Mathematics. My teacher was interesting, friendly, informative and exciting, showing me a world in applied mathematics that I hadn't before considered. My interest in numbers has brought me here as a Math teacher.

Vocabulary enrichment

Advanced *adjective* \əd-'vʌnst\
- being beyond the elementary or introductory level

Informative *adjective* \in-'fɔr-mə-tiv\
- providing information

Personal Qualities



What are three important factors in choosing a job?

Sample response

There are several significant factors that I consider in choosing a job. Firstly, The role must have exactly the type of challenges and responsibilities I'm looking for . It also has to be ideally suited to my skills and experience. Most importantly is to find a job that I'd enjoy doing. I believe that If you're happy in what you're doing, you'll like yourself, you'll have inner peace, and this will show in the quality of your work.

Vocabulary enrichment

significant *adjective* \sig-'ni-fi-kənt\
- very important.

Consideration *noun* \kən-'si-də-'rā-shən\
- careful thought : the act of thinking carefully about something you will make a decision about

Personal Qualities



QUESTION

What are the things that you would like to accomplish as a teacher?

Sample response

I hope to leave a positive lasting impression on my students and create life long compassionate learners motivated to improve themselves and the society. As a teacher, I'd like to promote a love of learning, guide my students to think critically, and foster creativity and innovation.

Vocabulary enrichment

Motivate *verb* \ 'mō-tə-, vāt\

-to give or be a reason for doing something.

Compassionate *adjective* \kəm-'pa-sh(ə-)nət\

-feeling or showing concern for someone.

Critically *adverb* \ 'kri-ti-k(ə-)lē\

- using or involving careful judgment about the good and bad parts of something.

Foster *verb* \ 'fös-tər, 'fäs-\

- to promote the growth or development.

Personal Qualities



If you become rich, what would be the first thing you'd do?

Sample response

Travelling to different cities in the world would be the first thing I'd do. To explore, learn, meet new people from different cultures and teach for free, whatever area I'm needed for. I would use my money to try and find out more about myself and how I can contribute positively to the society.

Vocabulary enrichment

Explore *verb* \ik-'splɔr\

- to look at (something) in a careful way to learn more about it : to study or analyze (something).

Contribute *verb* \kən-'tri-byət,\

- to give (something, such as money, goods, or time) to help a person, group, cause, or organization.

Personal Qualities



What motivates you to do your best?

Sample response

What motivates me to be the best teacher is not just one thing. Among the many reasons is the desire to be a good example for the students. They need positive role models to show them what they can do. I have always had the intense desire to teach others and I enjoy seeing the light in the eyes of those who discover a new fact or learn new idea. I enjoy learning all kinds of things and I like to share that knowledge.

Vocabulary enrichment

Desire *verb* \di-'zī(-ə)r, dē-\

-to want or wish for (something).

Intense *adjective* \in-'ten(t)s\

- done with or showing great energy, enthusiasm, or effort of a person.

Personal Qualities



What do you consider is the saddest part of your life?

Sample response

The saddest experience would be when my dad passed away just before I graduated from college and got my first job. He was a dedicated educator during his time, and he was so proud of me following in his footsteps .

Vocabulary enrichment

dedicated *adjective*

-devoted to a cause, ideal, or purpose.

footstep *noun* \-,step\
-

- a way of life, conduct, or action.

Personal Qualities



What's the best memory of your campus life?

Sample response

In the first year of University, when I just began learning creative writing , I won the third prize in a Short story writing competition. That was the happiest memory of education for me. The prize was not important, but the most valuable thing was to justify the confidence of my teacher who mentored me.

Vocabulary enrichment

creative writing \krē-'ā-tiv,\

-writing that expresses ideas and thoughts in an imaginative way. The writer gets to express feelings and emotions instead of just presenting the facts.

Confidence *noun* \ 'kän-fə-dən(t)s, -,den(t)s\

- a feeling or belief that you can do something well or succeed at something.

Personal Qualities



How does the internet change the way you spend your free time?

Sample response

Internet changes the way we lead our lives or interact with other people .In my case, like any other, I'm amazed by the many wonders internet brings. Nowadays, I'm spending much more time in front of the computer even on my free time. However, I make sure that the time I spend online would be worthwhile. I use internet as a good resource for my lesson plans and to update myself on the new trends and developments in Education that I can use to improve my teaching style.

Vocabulary enrichment

Worthwhile *adjective* \-'hwī(-ə)l, -'wī(-ə)l\
- to be worth spending time, effort, or money on.

Update *verb* \,əp-'dāt\
- to change (something) by including the most recent information.

CHAPTER
02

Teacher's Qualities



QUESTION

Describe your teaching style. (general)

Sample response

Demonstrative style of teaching is what I follow where it involves lot of preparation for the class. Text books collate all the information and put it at one place for the students and hence the role of a teacher is to explain the concepts in a way that students understand and remember. Organizing practical sessions and showing the videos pertaining to the subject helps students better.

Vocabulary enrichment

Démonstrative *adjective* \di-'măn(t)-strə-tiv\
 - showing who or what is being referred to.

Collate *verb* \kə-'lāt, kă\
 - to gather together information from different sources in order to study it carefully.

Concept *noun* \'kăn-,sept\
 -an idea of what something is or how it works.

Pertain *verb* \pər-'tān\
 - to relate *to* someone or something : to have a connection *to* a person or thing.



QUESTION

What made you decide to become a teacher?

Sample response

I want to be a teacher to develop a new generation of thinking individuals. Being a goal-oriented person with tons of patience, I am sure I will be able to gel with kids and train them in the required subjects with utmost care and concern for achieving the educational goals.

Vocabulary enrichment

Goal-oriented **adjective**

- a person or organization that focuses on tasks and the desired end results of those tasks.

Utmost **adjective** \ 'ət-, mōst

- greatest or highest in degree, number, or amount.



QUESTION

What skills do you bring to the teaching profession?

Sample response

Patience for me is one of the most important skills which I believe every good teacher needs in order to find a way to work with his students and earn their respect. Another is mentoring, we need to always remember that, aside from parents, we are one of the most consistent mentors in a child's life. That means setting a good example for them to follow.

Vocabulary enrichment

Mentor *verb* \ˈmen-ˌtôr, -tər\

- to teach or give advice or guidance to (someone, such as a less experienced person or a child).

Consistent *adjective* \kən-ˈsis-tənt\

- continuing to happen or develop in the same way.



Flexibility is an important skill needed to become an effective teacher. Do you consider yourself as a flexible educator?

Sample response

Yes, I am a flexible teacher. I can deal effectively with people and students from all backgrounds and socio-economic groups. In teaching, I am completely aware that students have different learning rates and styles. I am flexible in the sense that I address these differences and make it a point to respond to their different needs. In my teaching, I make use of different learning strategies so that my instruction will be interesting and motivating to students.

Vocabulary enrichment

Flexible *adjective* \ˈflek-sə-bəl\

-willing to change or to try different things.

Aware *adjective* \ə-ˈwer\

-knowing and understanding a lot about what is happening around you.

Address *verb* \ə-ˈdres, a- also ˈa-,dres\

- to direct the efforts or attention of; to deal with.



QUESTION

What is your philosophy of education?

Sample response

I believe in teaching students with dignity, and in providing a fun, student-centered learning environment. I make sure that every child knows that they are worthy, by listening to and caring for their needs. I work hard to create a classroom that celebrates achievement and progress. These efforts encourage the students to stay in school and learn. By the end of the school year, I make sure that the students will be commended for their contributions to the class or a skill they have developed.

Vocabulary enrichment

Student-centered learning

- also known as learner-centered education, broadly encompasses methods of teaching that shift the focus of instruction from the teacher to the student.

Encourage *verb* \in-'kær-ij, -'kæ-rij, en-\

- to make (someone) more determined, hopeful, or confident.

Commend *verb* \kə-'mend\

- to praise (someone or something) in a serious and often public way.



QUESTION

What can you contribute to our school teaching?

Sample response

I am the type of teacher who shares with my peers the classroom experiences that I have had, whether good or bad. I do this because I believe that this is the best way for me and other teachers to improve our teaching. In this way, I get to share with them the best of my skills and, in return, they share with me the best of their skills. I also find that this is a very good way to learn how to handle situations that are difficult or unusual. The feeling of not being alone, but being part of a team of teachers, is what I can bring to the school. This will help build morale and a great working environment.

Vocabulary enrichment

Handle *verb* \ˈhæn-dəl\

-to do the work required for (something).

Moral *noun* \mə-ˈrəl\

- the feelings of enthusiasm and loyalty that a person or group has about a task or job.



QUESTION

How do you differentiate your teaching?

Sample response

My teaching is unique in the sense that while teaching approach is holistic, it is also inclusive and individualized. I not only share knowledge with my students, but I also elicit knowledge from them. For instance, when I was teaching mathematics, I didn't simply teach formulas and methods of solving mathematical problems. I also explained to my students the value of understanding numbers and the great things we can use math for, such as the ability to think logically. I include all students in my lessons.

Vocabulary enrichment

Unique *adjective* \yü-'nēk\
-very special or unusual.

Holistic *adjective* \hō-'lis-tik\
- relating to or concerned with complete systems rather than with individual parts.

Elicit *verb* \i-'li-sət\
-to get (a response, information, etc.) from someone.

Logically *adverb* \ 'lä-ji-k(ə-)lē\
- sensible or reasonable.



QUESTION

What do you think are the most difficult aspects of this job?

Sample response

For me, the most difficult part of teaching is the limited contact hours with students within one class period (or day). When I teach, I have so much information that I would like to impart to my students that time flies by too fast. My challenge is to make sure that I structure my lessons so effectively that learning takes place in one class period (or day). So I plan ahead to maximize every minute of my class period (or day).

Vocabulary enrichment

Impart *verb* \im-'pärt\
 -to make (something) known to someone.

Structure *transitive verb* \ 'strək-chər\
 - to arrange or organize (something) in a particular way.

Maximize *verb* \ 'mak-sə- ,mīz\
 - to use (something) in a way that will get the best result.



QUESTION

What do you like most about teaching?

Sample response

What I enjoy most in teaching is hearing my students explain, in their own words, what they learned in a particular lesson and watching them enjoy participating in the class. When you observe my class, you will see that I get my students engaged in our discussions and activities.

Vocabulary enrichment

Particular *adjective* \pə(r)-'ti-kyə-lər, -k(ə-)lər\

- used to indicate that one specific person or thing is being referred to and no others.

Engage *verb* \in-'gāj\

- to get and keep (someone's attention, interest, etc.).



QUESTION

What do you dislike about teaching?

Sample response

I dislike the amount of time it can take to grade papers, because I'd prefer that time be used to analyze the data and determine my next steps to get my students to master the subject. Although it's a necessary thing, I'd much rather spend my time planning and implementing lessons and working with the kids than filling out endless hours of paperwork.

Vocabulary enrichment

Analyze *verb* \ 'a-nə-,līz\

- to study (something) closely and carefully.

Implement *verb* \ 'im-plə-,ment\

- to begin to do or use (something, such as a plan) ; to make (something) active or effective.



QUESTION

Tell me about a person who has greatly influenced you as a teacher.

Sample response

The Assistant Principal of my high school was a real inspiration to me, and she is one of the major reasons I pursued a teaching career. Her ability to guide students, her fairness, and her sense of justice made me aspire to bring these things to my own classroom.

Vocabulary enrichment

Inspiration *noun* \,in(t)-spə-'rā-shən,\

- a person, place, experience, etc., that makes someone want to do or create something.

Pursue *verb* \pər-'sü, -'syü\

-to try to get or do (something) over a period of time.

Aspire *verb* \ə-'spī(-ə)r\

-to want to have or achieve something (such as a particular career or level of success).



QUESTION

Why did you choose your major?

Sample response

I decided to get my degree in elementary education because teaching was something that has always come naturally to me. I have always enjoyed spending time with children and when I'm in the classroom I do not feel like I'm working because I love being there! I feel my effective listening and patience really help me connect with kids.

Vocabulary enrichment

Degree *noun* \di-'grē\

- a title conferred on students by a college, university, or professional school on completion of a program of study.

Effective listening skills

- the ability to actively understand information provided by the speaker, and display interest in the topic discussed.



QUESTION

What is/are your greatest strength(s) as a teacher?

Sample response

My greatest strength is my listening ability. I pay careful attention to what I'm being told about everything, from specific information relating to teaching, to future approaches. By being a good listener, I am more efficient in communicating with my students and their parents, and to all people I work with. My listening skills also help me effectively motivate others, which would be a large part of my job as an educator.

Vocabulary enrichment

Specific *adjective* \spi-'si-fik\
 -relating to a particular person, situation, etc.

Efficient *adjective* \i-'fi-shənt\
 -capable of producing desired results without wasting materials, time, or energy.

Motivate *verb* \'mō-tə-,vāt\
 -to give (someone) a reason for doing something.



QUESTION

What is/are your weakness(es) as a teacher?

Sample response

I like to make sure that my work is perfect, so I tend to perhaps spend a little too much time checking it. However, I've come to a good balance by setting up a system to ensure everything is done correctly the firsttime.

Vocabulary enrichment

Balance *noun* \ 'ba-lən(t)s\

- a state in which different things occur in equal or proper amounts or have an equal or proper amount of importance.

System *noun* \ 'si-stəm\

- an orderly way of managing, controlling, organizing, or doing something .



QUESTION

What kind of teachers would you prefer to work with? Explain why.

Sample response

The most important quality for me is being a team player. I feel like we should all help each other out and to put what is best for the TEAM as a whole. I need a group that is open about differences of opinions and work through it respectfully. I also like for members to feel comfortable to come to one another for support, advice and questions about the students, curriculum, administration or whatever without fear of judgment.

Vocabulary enrichment

Curriculum *noun* \kə-'ri-kyə-ləm\
 -all the courses of study offered by a school.

Judgment *noun* \'jəj-mənt\
 - the act or process of forming an opinion or making a decision after careful thought ; the act of judging something or someone.