

### **Questions Employers Might Ask at a Speech-Language Pathology Interview**

- Tell me about yourself.
- Tell me about your relevant experience/clinical practicum.
- What did you like best/worst about your clinical experiences?
- What types of assessments/therapies do you feel comfortable administering?
- In what area do you think you need the most training/supervision?
- How would you implement an IEP?
- What is your preferred method of treatment for [disorder]?
- How would you keep track of client progress?
- How do you work with a patient who is making very little progress?
- How do you determine whether or not your service for a client is successful?
- What expectations do you have of your clients? Of their parents/family?
- How would you work with parents/family members of clients enrolled in your program?
- How would you relate your intervention to a client's classroom work?
- How would you handle a client who is openly frustrated and gives up?
- What types of professional conferences/workshops have you attended/are interested in attending?
- Would you feel comfortable presenting an in-service workshop to teachers, social workers, or nurses?
- Why did you choose speech-language pathology as a career?
- What do you find rewarding about this field?
- What areas do you find particularly interesting in this field?
- What do you consider to be your greatest strengths and weaknesses?
- What are your short-term and long-range career goals?
- What three characteristics describe you best?
- What are your three greatest accomplishments?
- Why should I hire you?
- How would you describe the ideal job for you?
- What qualities should a successful speech-language pathologist possess?
- What qualities should a good supervisor possess?
- What type of relationship would you like to establish with your supervisor?
- What kind of work environment/management style do you prefer?
- How has your education prepared you for a career in speech-language pathology?
- Describe your most rewarding academic experience.
- Why did you select your college or university?
- Do you think that your grades are a good indication of your ability level?
- How do you think you can make a meaningful contribution to our organization?
- Why do you want to work for this organization?
- What do you know about our organization?
- Describe a major problem you encountered and how you dealt with it.
- Describe a time when you failed to meet expectations on an assignment.
- Describe a time when someone criticized your work in front of others and your reaction to it.
- Describe a negative situation when it was important for you to maintain a positive attitude.
- Describe a time when you had to deal with a difficult person (client, classmate, co-worker, etc.).
- Describe a time when you got co-workers or classmates of dissimilar backgrounds, interests, or goals to collaborate productively on a project.

### **Questions to Ask an Employer at a Speech-Language Pathology Interview**

- What are some of the therapy objectives you would like accomplished?
- What would my typical day entail?
- What qualities are you looking for in candidates for this position?
- What characteristics do successful employees of this organization seem to have in common?
- Do you encourage attendance at certain conferences, workshops, and other educational activities?
- How often are performance reviews given?
- How is one evaluated?
- What do you like best about your job? This organization?
- What are some of the more difficult challenges someone in this position tends to encounter?
- Who determines the size and composition of my caseload?
- What kind of equipment/instruments/resources do you have?
- Would you please describe typical client in this program?
- What is the next course of action? When should I expect to hear from you?

*Sources: American Speech-Language-Hearing Association  
Opportunities in Speech-Language Pathology Careers*

## Skills/Qualities Employers Seek in Speech-Language Pathology Candidates

Achievement-Oriented	Initiative
Adaptability	Interpersonal Skills
Analytical Thinking	Listening Skills
Communication Skills	Organizational Skills
Compassion	Patience
Conceptual Thinking	Persistence
Critical Thinking Skills	Problem-Solving Skills
Decision-Making Skills	Resourcefulness
Detail-Oriented	Self-Confidence
Emotional Stability	Teamwork Skills
Imagination	Tolerance

Sources: *American Speech-Language-Hearing Association*  
*Bureau of Labor Statistics*

### Sample Thank You Letter

123 State Road  
Orland Park, IL 60462  
708-555-1111  
kdoe@mailbox.com

March 10, 20xx

Melissa Smith  
Assistant Superintendent  
Fairview School District 123  
7890 W. Main Street  
Fairview, IL 61432

Dear Ms. Smith:

Thank you very much for interviewing me for the Speech Therapist-Clinical Fellowship position with your school district today. You and your colleagues provided me with a very warm reception and informative discussion.

My enthusiasm for working with your district was strengthened as a result of our meeting, and the opportunity is congruent with the type of experience I am seeking. As mentioned during our conversation, my experiences as a Speech Assistant and as a Student Clinician have prepared me extensively for the type of work required of a Speech Pathologist in a school environment. In addition, my positive interpersonal qualities, proficient analytical abilities, and strong communication skills would make me an ideal candidate for the position. Furthermore, my willingness to assist with your college mentoring program would enable me to be a versatile contributor to your organization.

Once again, I wish to reiterate my genuine interest in the position and your organization. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 708-555-1111 or at kdoe@mailbox.com. Thank you very much for your valuable time and consideration.

Sincerely,

*Kerry J. Doe*

Kerry J. Doe