

The Telegraph

Goldman Sachs tops list of oddest interview questions

They arrived expecting to be quizzed on the financial expertise they would bring to a role at one of the world's most prestigious investment banks.



Applicants were asked: 'If you were shrunk to the size of a pencil and put in a blender, how would you get out?' Photo: GETTY



By [Jon Swaine](#), New York

6:49PM GMT 31 Dec 2010

Instead, applicants interviewing for a job at Goldman Sachs were asked: "If you were shrunk to the size of a pencil and put in a blender, how would you get out?"

The question has been ranked as the oddest posed at a corporate job interview in the [US](#) last year. It topped a list that could prompt many jobseekers to break into a cold sweat.

Google, the internet giant, which has established a reputation for pitching its job interviews in the left field, asked some applicants: "How many basketballs can you fit in this room?"

Hopefuls at its online rival Facebook, meanwhile, were asked for the smallest possible number of guesses one would need to discover a certain number between 1 and 1000 if given the hint "higher" or "lower" after each guess.

Volkswagen, the car manufacturer meanwhile asked: "What would you do if you inherit a pizzeria from your

uncle?"

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[Facebook coup to hand Goldman float role](#)

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[Goldman ties up Facebook ready for fresh dotcom boom](#)

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Laura DeCarlo, the head of Career Directors International, said that employers used the questions to discover which candidates were "creative under pressure".

"There might not even be a correct or realistic answer, but they want to see you develop a step-by-step response – and discover how easily you will quit," she said.

Ms DeCarlo said that as there was little candidates could do to prepare for such "puzzle questions", they should resolve to stay calm and carry a notepad for impromptu workings-out.

The questions were compiled by Glassdoor, a careers advice website.

List of other questions:

"Rate yourself on a scale of 1 to 10 how weird you are." – Capital One

"If you could be any superhero, who would it be?" – AT&T

"What do wood and alcohol have in common?" – Guardsmark

"An apple costs 20 cents, an orange costs 40 cents, and a grapefruit costs 60 cents. How much is a pear?" – Epic Systems

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