

Recruiter Call: Key Questions & Strong, Genuine Responses

These are **common recruiter screening questions** and **recommended ways to answer them clearly, confidently, and professionally.**

Why are you looking for a new role?

Suggested Answer:

My current contract is approaching completion, so I'm exploring new opportunities where I can continue to apply my skills, take on meaningful responsibilities, and grow professionally. I'm particularly interested in roles that align with my experience and long-term career goals.

What are your salary expectations?

Suggested Answer (Full-Time):

Based on my experience and the scope of the role, I'm targeting a base salary in the range of **\$140,000 to \$160,000**, depending on the overall compensation package, benefits, and growth opportunities.

Suggested Answer (Contract):

For contract roles, I'm looking for a rate in the range of **\$60 to \$80 per hour**, depending on the role's responsibilities, duration, and expectations.

Are you open to full-time (W2) employment?

Suggested Answer:

Yes, I'm open to both full-time W2 and contract opportunities, depending on the role and alignment.

Are you open to remote work or relocation?

Suggested Answer:

Remote work would be ideal. However, I'm also open to relocation if the opportunity is the right fit.

What is your current work authorization status?

Suggested Answer:

Provide your answer honestly based on your current authorization status.

Will you require visa sponsorship now or in the future?

Suggested Answer (If No):

No, I do not require visa sponsorship now or in the future.

Important Note for OPT Candidates

Simply saying "No" may not be sufficient. A clear explanation builds confidence.

Example:

I am currently on OPT with a STEM extension, valid for up to three years. I do not require sponsorship at this time. Additionally, my spouse is a U.S. citizen, and I have already started the green card process through marriage, with an expected timeline of approximately six months.

What is your availability to start?

Suggested Answer:

I would be available to start **within two weeks of receiving an offer letter**.

Additional Common Screening Questions

Recruiters may also ask:

- What is your current role and title?

- How large is your team?
- What technologies are you currently using?
- Can you briefly describe your current project?
- What are your top three skills as a Data Engineer?
- Are you looking for W2 or C2C?
- Are you open to relocation? Any preferred locations?
- What type of roles are you targeting (ETL, data pipelines, cloud, etc.)?
- When can you start?
- Are you available for a face-to-face or video interview?
- Why are you interested in C2C roles (if applicable)?
- Who is your current manager or supervisor?
- How did you hear about this opportunity?
- Can you relocate at your own expense if required?
- How much time do you need to prepare for interviews?
- Have you worked on full data pipeline development (ingestion to reporting)?
- Are you on H1B, EAD, GC, or another status?
- When does your current project end?
- Can you provide a manager or client reference?
- What is your current location and time zone?
- How large is your data team?
- Are team members primarily onshore or offshore?
- How involved were you in data modeling or warehouse design?

- Have you built pipelines from scratch?
 - If applicable, why can't you work directly with the client?
 - Where did you graduate from?
 - What is your GPA? (rare, but sometimes asked)
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Final Tip

On recruiter calls:

- Be **clear, calm, and concise**
- Avoid over-explaining unless asked
- Answer honestly, but confidently
- Treat the call as a **professional conversation**, not an interrogation

