

Tool Maker Interview Questions

1. Share an experience in which you've successfully learned how to handle a new piece of equipment?
2. Tell me about a recent experience you've had working with your hands.
3. What kind of experience do you have verifying dimensions, alignments, and clearances of finished parts for conformance to specifications, using measuring instruments such as calipers, gauge blocks, micrometers, and dial indicators?
4. Walk me through how you would study blueprints, sketches, models, or specifications to plan sequences of operations for fabricating tools, dies, or assemblies.
5. Share an experience when you applied new technology or information in your job. How did it help your company?
6. Give me an example of when you thought outside of the box. How did it help your employer?
7. Tell me about an experience in which you analyzed information and evaluated results to choose the best solution to a problem.
8. Share an example of a time you had to gather information from multiple sources. How did you determine which information was relevant?
9. Share an experience in which your attention to detail and thoroughness had an impact on your last company.
10. Describe methods you have found effective to visualize and compute dimensions, sizes, shapes, and tolerances of assemblies, based on specifications.
11. What kind of experience do you have setting up and operating conventional or computer numerically controlled machine tools such as lathes, milling machines, and grinders to cut, bore, grind, or otherwise shape parts to prescribed dimensions and finishes?
12. Tell me about a time when you developed your own way of doing things or were self-motivated to finish an important task.

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13. How do you balance cooperation with others and independent thinking? Share an example. (Try to determine if the candidate has a cooperative attitude or is otherwise good-natured.)
14. What is the most challenging part of conducting test runs with completed tools or dies to ensure that parts meet specifications, making adjustments as necessary?
15. Name a time when your creativity or alternative thinking solved a problem in your workplace.
16. What have you found to be the best way to smooth and polish flat and contoured surfaces of parts or tools, using scrapers, abrasive stones, files, emery cloths, or power grinders?
17. Share your effective approach to measure, mark, and scribe metal or plastic stock to lay out machining, using instruments such as protractors, micrometers, scribes, and rulers.
18. Name a time when you developed and designed new tools and dies, using computer-aided design software.
19. Share an experience you had in dealing with a difficult person and how you handled the situation.
20. Describe an experience in which you successfully controlled the operation of a difficult system. What made you successful?
21. Provide an experience in which you were sensitive to someone's needs or feelings. How did your helpfulness affect your work environment?
22. What factors do you consider when selecting metals to be used from a range of metals and alloys, based on properties such as hardness and heat tolerance?
23. Have you ever designed jigs, fixtures, and templates for use as work aids in the fabrication of parts or products? Share an example.
24. What kind of experience do you have setting pyrometer controls of heat-treating furnaces and feed or place parts, tools, or assemblies into furnaces to harden?

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25. Provide a time when you worked in a rapidly evolving workplace. How did you deal with the change? (Make sure the candidate is flexible.)

26. Describe a time when you successfully serviced, repaired, or tested a machine or device that operates mainly by mechanical principles.

27. Share an experience in which your diligence of inspecting equipment, structures, or materials helped you identify a problem or the cause of a problem.

28. Provide a time when you dealt calmly and effectively with a high-stress situation.

29. Share an experience in which your willingness to lead or offer an opinion helped your company.

30. Tell me how you organize, plan, and prioritize your work.