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# 4 Questions You Should Ask Your Mentor





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## TWEET THIS

-  There are four types of questions you can ask your mentor to keep things going strong.
-  Your mentor is the perfect person to help you build and develop skills.



You've matched with a great mentor, and you've established a solid relationship with them. Now it's time to take things to the next level. How do you keep getting value from your mentor-mentee relationship?

There are four types of questions you can ask your mentor to keep things going strong. 

**Situational: Ask for advice on a particular challenge**

If you're working through a tough situation, ask your mentor if they've experienced the same circumstance or something similar. Have them walk you through their process and how they overcame it. Have them explain the steps they took to rectify the problem and elaborate on the parts that were toughest. Ask them how they were feeling, what their thought process was, how long they worked to overcome the challenge, and any other questions that invoke thought and spark discussion.

This will be an ongoing discussion that you can keep coming back to as you make progress on your journey. Discuss the wins and challenges you're experiencing as they happen. It's equally important to talk about what's going right, especially since we tend to focus on challenges or problems.

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### **Storytelling: Stories help fill in details and emphasize ideas**

Have your mentor walk you through their journey to where they are now. This can be a high level overview or an in depth dissertation of every step they took. Think about what will be most helpful and relevant to your current situation. If you're looking to make a big change, hearing their story and all the details can help allay your fears. If you're just looking for some advice, then an overview might be more appropriate.

[Stories are the best ways](#) to share knowledge. A story adds a personal element that helps make a problem seem less intimidating and more easily surmountable. It also offers further insight into the full process that was involved to move beyond the challenge.

### **Perception: Help raise your self-awareness**

Your mentor is the best person to ask for feedback on the way you're perceived. They will be honest with you and provide you with ongoing advice to help you grow and improve and [become more self-aware](#). This is a great question to ask early on in the relationship before they really get to know you. That gives you an idea of how you come across on a first impression. It's representative of how you come across to colleagues, bosses, and other people in general.

This is a question that you should frequently revisit, because perception is something that can constantly be worked on and improved. Be open to this feedback and be prepared that it's not going to be easy to hear. Your mentor will help you tune into to any unconscious negative behaviors you're exhibiting.



## Skill building: Improve and develop new skills

Your mentor is the perfect person to help you build and develop skills. 🐦 In fact, this should be a large component of what you work on with a mentor. You can learn and develop skills in a multitude of ways. It can be from formal training where you spend a session working on one particular skill, to lessons you learn on the fly where you don't even realize you're learning. You can design your sessions to be focused around building or strengthening a particular skill.

**Soft skills** such as communication, problem-solving, interpersonal skills, and teamwork are perfect examples of skills to work on with a mentor. These are skills that are critical to your career success but you don't often get a chance to practice outside of work. Working on them with a mentor will really give you a competitive edge in your career.

To keep things moving forward, your sessions with a mentor should touch upon all of these points. It's important that you don't try to cram all of them in at once, but rather spread them out over a longer period of time. Revisit these questions across multiple sessions and apply the lessons you learn as often as possible.

*This article is part of a series on Mentorship. Read part 1: [How To Get The Most Out Of Your Mentor Relationship](#), part 2: [What To Look For In A Mentor](#), and part 3: [How To Be A Great Mentee](#).*

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