

Video Editor interview checklist

Video editor hiring usually starts with a showreel and portfolio review, followed by a practical editing test with supplied footage, a technical discussion with a senior editor or creative lead, and a final round on rates or salary.

10 QUESTIONS TO PRACTISE OUT LOUD

1. How do you organise a project in Premiere Pro or DaVinci Resolve before you start cutting?

What it checks: Discipline in project and media management, which saves time on long projects and lets others take over your timeline.

2. Tell me about a project where the deadline was moved up suddenly. How did you deliver?

What it checks: Time management, prioritisation and communication with the producer under deadline pressure, without sacrificing the quality that really matters.

3. Our editors sometimes work late before launches. How do you feel about deadline crunches in a video role?

What it checks: Realistic expectations about post-production workload and how you manage your energy and quality under pressure.

4. When do you use proxy files, and how do you set up a proxy workflow?

What it checks: Technical knowledge of performance workflows for high-resolution or long-GOP footage, so editing stays smooth on regular editing machines.

5. Describe a time a client or director rejected your edit. How did you respond?

What it checks: Openness to feedback and whether you can separate your ego from the work while still offering reasons for your choices.

6. How do you price your editing work, and what monthly salary do you expect for this in-house position?

What it checks: Whether you price your skills realistically based on experience, software and the type of work, and can negotiate calmly.

7. What is the difference between colour correction and colour grading, and what is your process for each?

What it checks: Understanding of the colour pipeline and whether you correct consistently before applying a creative look.

8. Tell me about a technical problem that threatened a project, such as corrupted files or a crashed drive.

What it checks: Problem-solving under technical failure, and whether you have backup habits that protect the client's footage and your project.

9. Why do you want to edit for our production house or brand team instead of freelancing full-time?

What it checks: Your motivation for a full-time role and whether you have researched the company's work and style.

10. What audio levels and cleanup steps do you apply before exporting a video for YouTube or social media?

What it checks: Attention to audio quality, which viewers notice more than picture flaws, and knowledge of loudness targets.

TIPS FOR THIS INTERVIEW

- Keep a short showreel of one to two minutes with your best work first, and be ready to explain your role and decisions in each clip.
- Practise a timed editing test with sample footage, focusing on clean structure, audio levels and a sensible export, since many studios set one.
- Revise technical basics such as codecs, proxies, frame rates, colour spaces, loudness targets and platform export settings.
- Bring a few project files or screenshots that show how you organise bins, label clips and manage versions.

THE DAY BEFORE

- ☐ Confirm the time, venue or video link and the interviewer's name
- ☐ Plan your route and leave time for traffic, or test your camera, microphone and internet
- ☐ Keep copies of your resume, ID proof, certificates and photographs in a folder
- ☐ Iron your clothes and charge your phone and laptop
- ☐ Do one final run-through of your introduction, then stop and rest

ON THE DAY

- ☐ Arrive 15 minutes early, or log in 5–10 minutes early for a video call
- ☐ Greet everyone politely, including the receptionist or coordinator
- ☐ Listen to the full question, pause, then answer in a clear structure
- ☐ Take brief notes of names and key points
- ☐ Ask your prepared questions and confirm the next steps before you leave