



By Seniors and Veterans:

General tips for interviews

1) The golden rule of any interview is keeping in mind you are not expected to know all the answers. *It's not the correctness of the answer that matters but the approach on how you try to solve the problem.*

2) If you are silent for more than a minute or two during the interview, the interviewer is soon going to lose interest in you. *Think out loud.*

3) I know everyone wants to prove they are the best in data structures and algorithms, but coming up with the most optimal solution directly is going to be very difficult. Even if you manage to pull that off and I was your interviewer, I would assume you have read about this question / answer sometime beforehand and would invalidate the question itself. My suggestion would be to go *with an incremental approach of solutions*. Start with a very naive solution then explain why it is not optimal and in what direction are you thinking to optimize it.

4) If you were to answer a question you only partially know about, *give out the answer with a disclaimer that it may be wrong but you are taking a stab at it*. This would avoid any conflict / argument with the interviewer. I have witnessed a few candidates confidently giving wrong answers, and the rest of the interview goes in vain, as the interviewer is now asking questions around the same question to grill you more.

5) Don't be arrogant. *Accept when you don't know things, accept when you are wrong*. The last kind of person anyone wants in their team is smart but arrogant.

6) *Brush up your basics as much as you can*. You wouldn't want to screw up on questions like pass by value vs pass by reference.

7) If the question is subjective, and you remember the exact definitions from a book, don't say it. *Add your personal touch and explain it in your own words*. Helps the interviewer to understand you have actually understood this concept.

8) *Never be silent when they ask 'Do you have any questions for me'*. Ask questions about work / team or tech stack / anything you feel is relevant. Show your interest in their work and team. If nothing, ask a generic question like how your typical day looks.

9) While giving out answers only *include the points you know you can handle follow up questions on*. Be in control of your interview session and drive the questions in the direction you are comfortable with.

10) Please don't only mention your name / branch / GPA in introducing yourself. *Be an extrovert for an hour.* Hopefully its gonna pay you a lot :p

11) Many times, you will be asked an open-ended question. Do not make any assumptions. Ask clarifying questions, devise requirements.

1. Be calm for the interviews remember there is always a next company, it's not end of the world
 2. Keep communicating with the interviewer; he/she is your friend not enemy
 3. Try to simplify the problem and break into smaller problem you'll be able to solve it
 4. Write clear and understandable code, with proper syntax and naming conventions
 5. Control your emotions. No *bro*, no *aree fuck* , etc
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Coding round

1. By now this point must have been hammered onto you by almost every senior, you should be thorough with your DSA and coding skills. It's literally the first round for being eligible for interviews so if you fail to crack this round, you miss this chance and wait for the next company. So start as early as possible. Learn how to apply DSA to problems and code them. **START TODAY.**

2. Fix ONE language you're going to be using so that you don't have to keep learning STLs, data structures for different languages. Some people get confused ki string manipulation Python me karte hai easy padega but don't remember how to use other data structures in that language hence keep switching languages. Time waste hoga. Choose a language. Stick to it.

Interview

1. **NEVER. STAY. SILENT.** When a question has been tossed at you, start telling what you're thinking. What your stream of thoughts is. That's exactly what the interviewers are interested in knowing.

2. There would be times when you would find it difficult to come up with a solution. One approach that might be useful is thinking the trivial, brute force, human way to solve the problem at hand and then trying to optimise it. And just because brute force solution hi dimaag me aa raha hai doesn't mean you don't communicate that to the interviewer. As said above, keep talking whatever is coming to your mind. Many times interviewers will try to nudge you in the right direction, but for that you've to voice your thoughts.

3. Communication skills have to be decent, if not good. You shouldn't get scared and

lose it in the interview room. It's perfectly understandable that it's your first interview and you'd be nervous but remember there's nothing to be scared of, just think of it as trying to explain something to your friend and you'll be fine. Don't let your fear hinder your ability to put the logic across. What I'd do before interview day is watch some videos so as to get into the flow, gain confidence and speak better. For some reason, watching other people talk gives you the confidence needed to drive the fear away.

4. At the end of the interview, ask questions. Personal performance based nahi, they almost never answer that. Uske liye maybe you can try catching up to them once the entire process is over. Ask questions about the company, the kind of projects, how a normal day is like at that company, etc. Get to know them. Internship ka purpose hai to figure out whether you would want to work there in future, so ask questions.

5. Next, presence of mind is essential, especially when dealing with HR interviews. Some companies expect you to show how your activities/life experiences are in parallel with the company values. So pay attention during the company presentation and be prepared accordingly. Sad that you have to tell your life experiences in a way that

showcases the companies values, I believe that the company should accept you for who you are rather than forcing candidates to give examples from their life where they used one of the company's values, but that's how it is.

6. Formals seriously pehno. Especially for banks, HRs notice karte hai. Don't dress lousy.

Resume

1. Keep it simple. Education, projects, positions of responsibility, technical skills. Bold whatever skill you feel should be highlighted(it will invite questions that you want to answer) eg. your good pointer, the language/technology you worked on in a project that you feel confident about, etc.

2. Mention the projects in decreasing order of importance. The project you want questions on/your most interesting project should be at the top. But be prepared to answer questions on it. The questions may be based on deployment, scaling, handling concurrency, the database structure, so be prepared.

3. They do not expect references in your resume at this stage since you're just starting out, so nikal do.

4. Keep it down to ONE PAGE. Get rid of the stuff the company may not be interested in knowing.

General tips

Try teaching whatever you've learnt to a junior or discussing questions with your friends. It helps a lot and gives you what viewpoint others' may have about the same question. That way you learn new approaches.

If you couldn't make it through some round, analyse what went wrong and work on it. Keep growing and becoming better for the next company.

Unrelated to interviews in general, laptop carry karo whenever you're expecting a

company test on that day. IPO tends to mess up, labs me computers nahi milte, so always always always carry your laptop. Instances huye hai bachchon ko systems nahi

mile test dene aur test time end ho gaya hence they missed out. CARRY YOUR LAPTOP ON TEST DAY EVEN IF SOMEONE SAYS KHUDKA LAPTOP ALLOWED NAHI HAI. Last minute goof ups huye hai, tab they have to allow laptops.

Lastly, don't be too stressed. Unavoidable circumstances ke baare me tension mat lo, work on what's in your control i.e. your efforts and skills. Take it as an opportunity to develop yourself professionally. Fear sabko rahega, it's how you overcome it for your good that'll make the difference. All the best! :)

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1. Let this be clear to you that the basics of algo and DSA are the most important... Also you must practice writing code on paper without IDE because that is what happens during interviews. Those who made mistakes in OL test must practice them from various websites and most importantly stay in habit. If you lose touch of anything it is really hard to get good again.
 2. Try to introduce the idea of a schedule in your mind which includes solving these questions as a part of your daily/weekly routine. Practice will do wonders for you.
 3. Also one last thing... Try to excel in one technology and one language rather than being sub par in 10 of them. A person who knows 95% on topic A is more valuable than a person who knows 80% of topics A, B, C.
 4. If you had/have issues during verbal communication, practice speaking English with your peers and read experiences of HR interviews so that they can build your confidence.
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