

# Prerequisites for the Technical Interviewing Workshop

## Prerequisites

Please take a little time to prepare for this workshop. You'll receive a greater benefit if you can prepare the following items ahead of time.

First and foremost, it's important to go through the process of updating your resume. This reminds you of your qualifications, re-familiarizes you with past projects, and boosts your self-confidence. Bring your resume to the workshop, so that others can help you with critiques or suggestions. An extra pair of eyes on your resume can be a big help. Keep your resume under two pages. Place on your resume only those things that you are prepared to answer questions about.

Prepare a 1 to 2 minute summary of yourself, as an answer to "Tell me about yourself" (a popular phone-screen and interview question). Why did you get into this field? What are the highlights of what you have done? If possible, tailor this answer to the role you are applying for. Make it a quick overview of who you are and how you can contribute. In the workshop we'll take some time to pair up and ask each other this question.

Prepare to talk about a project that you are proud of, in some depth and detail. How did you solve the problems that came up? Why did you make certain technology choices? What did you learn? Who did you communicate with? What was the impact of the project on the business, product, UX, revenue, etc. An interviewer will be trying to determine if you understood the value of the project, led that project, did the bulk of the work, or were a follower. This should be one of the big items on your resume and, incidentally, you should be prepared to talk about all items on your resume like this if you can. In the workshop, we'll take some time to pair up and ask each other about our project.

Prepare questions that you can ask about a company where you are interviewing. Interviews are a 2-way street, and you need to figure out if they are a good fit for you as well. Determine ahead of time what are your must-haves, nice-to-haves, and absolutely-cannot-tolerates. Think about how to look for those conditions by asking polite questions in a positive way. A good interviewer will be taking note of your questions. They want to understand if you are seriously looking for new work and if you are curious and interested in what their company does. Did you research their company ahead of the interview? They will be noting it.

## Extra Reference Material

The following materials will help get you into the spirit for the workshop, or advance your knowledge afterward.

Consider buying the classic book “[Cracking the Coding Interview](#)”, by Gayle Laakmann McDowell. It’s a great way to learn about the different kinds of technical questions you might be asked. This book is most helpful if you have a couple of months to keep coming back to it. It would be hard to digest it much faster.

Sign up on a coding practice site, such at LeetCode or HackerRank, and try some of the exercises (in each of the languages you say you have experience with on your resume). Here’s an article about the [top ten sites like this](#).

Here’s an enjoyable and informative blog article by Julia Grace: [An Unconventional Guide for Getting a Software Engineering Job](#)