**🏆 Key Tips for Weekend-Only Learners**

1. **Weekdays (30–45 min if possible)**: Just revise concepts or do SQL/Python practice.
2. **Weekend (main learning)**: Do deep work (watch tutorials, build projects, hands-on Databricks).
3. **Consistency beats speed** → even if you go slow on weekdays, weekends will push you forward.
4. **Focus on projects** → recruiters value practical pipelines more than theory.

**Azure Data Engineer Weekend Roadmap (12 Months)**

**🔹 Months 1–2: Core Foundations**

**Focus:** Python + SQL (absolute must-have)

* Sat: Python (data structures, Pandas, file handling, functions)
* Sun: SQL (joins, CTEs, window functions, LeetCode/HackerRank practice)

📌 Deliverable: Small project – read CSV/Excel → clean with Pandas → write SQL queries.

**🔹 Months 3–4: Big Data with Spark**

**Focus:** PySpark basics

* Sat: Spark architecture, DataFrames, Joins, Aggregations
* Sun: Spark SQL + Delta Lake intro

📌 Deliverable: Ingest large CSV → process with PySpark → save as Parquet/Delta.

**🔹 Months 5–6: Azure Fundamentals**

**Focus:** Azure basics before Databricks

* Sat: Azure Storage (Blob, ADLS Gen2), IAM, RBAC
* Sun: Azure Data Factory (pipelines, linked services, triggers)

📌 Deliverable: ADF pipeline that loads data → ADLS → Synapse.

**🔹 Months 7–8: Azure Databricks Core**

**Focus:** Databricks hands-on

* Sat: Clusters, Notebooks (Python + SQL), Unity Catalog
* Sun: Delta Lake (Bronze, Silver, Gold), Databricks Jobs & Workflows

📌 Deliverable: ETL pipeline in Databricks → raw to clean to curated layers.

**🔹 Months 9–10: Data Engineering Pipelines**

**Focus:** Advanced pipelines

* Sat: Batch ETL (joins, aggregates, partitioning, SCD handling)
* Sun: Streaming (Kafka/Event Hub → Databricks → Delta Lake)

📌 Deliverable: End-to-end **Financial Pipeline** – Journal entries (PwC-style) → Databricks → Delta → Power BI.

**🔹 Month 11: Projects & Portfolio**

**Focus:** Build portfolio

* Sat: Polish 2–3 projects (batch, streaming, lakehouse)
* Sun: Document projects in GitHub + write LinkedIn posts about them

📌 Deliverable: GitHub repo with clean code + diagrams (resume booster).

**🔹 Month 12: Certifications & Interview Prep**

**Focus:** Job readiness

* Sat: Study & give **Databricks Data Engineer Associate**
* Sun: Prepare for **DP-203 (Azure Data Engineer Associate)** + mock interviews

📌 Deliverable: Certification + GitHub + LinkedIn profile = Interview ready 🚀

✨ By the end of 1 year, you’ll have:  
✅ Strong Python + SQL  
✅ PySpark + Delta Lake  
✅ Azure Storage, ADF, Synapse  
✅ Databricks pipelines (batch + streaming)  
✅ Certifications (Databricks + DP-203)  
✅ 2–3 GitHub projects to show in interviews