How does one have a successful interview?

Let’s hash it out together in this ever-growing document

**Answering Questions**

* Obviously the most important tip – know what you’re talking about. If you can already talk confidently about what we’ve learned, you don’t need to be nervous about that part. You can focus on conveying that knowledge.
  + What if they ask you something we didn’t cover?
    - "This wasn’t covered in our training BUT...” and then try your best to have an answer or at least take a stab at answering. If you do know anything about it, make that known. Give them as much info as possible.
* GIVE EXAMPLES!!! PLEASE!!!!!
  + Projects - “I’ve used this in this project where we did blank”
    - Lead with projects when possible
  + Demos - “My trainer covered this in a demonstration where he did blank”
  + Revature coding challenges - “We had a code assessment where we had to manipulate Arrays/Strings”
  + Etc. – it's also fine to mention that you saw something in a video, at a seminar, in school, anything that works to prove that you’re growing outside of training
  + Try not to get into minute details before you explain the big picture
    - BAD: “yeah uhhh I set up a controller with these annotations and it had a method that gets user by id, which talked to the DAO using JPA to manipulate our DB and show the user data...”
    - GOOD: “In my most recent project at Revature I used a Spring boot backend that processed HTTP requests with Spring MVC in the Controller, and I used Spring Data JPA to help map my model classes into DB tables, and build out my DAO Interfaces”
  + Ideally - “What, Why, How”: What is this thing, what purpose does it serve, how do I implement it
* Try to leave out uncertain language as much as possible. GET YOUR ANSWER OUT!
  + Leave out the “I think... my understanding is... ” fillers
  + Don’t end your answers with “but I haven’t used it in a while.. But I’m not sure”
  + You CAN say things like “I’m blanking on this one specific thing” if the rest of answer is solid, just try to describe that “thing” as well as you can
* Feel free to ask the interviewer to repeat themselves, or clarify, or ask for a second to think. You can also ask them to type certain things in chat if you truly don’t understand. Don’t do this every single time obviously but you wanna make sure you 100% know the question being asked
  + Don’t repeat that one story where an associate almost wasn’t selected, because he thought the interviewer said, “Spring Bins” instead of “Spring Beans”. So, he essentially told the interviewer he didn’t know what a Spring Bean was – BAD!

**Carrying Yourself**

* Dos
  + EXUDE CONFIDENCE.
    - Greet your interviewer, ask how they’re doing
    - Monitor the tone of your voice! Don’t speak in too much of a monotone! Try to inject some energy into your speech. Convey enthusiasm even if it isn’t totally real.
    - Yes, you can mention there are nerves, but your word choice should reflect confidence in your abilities.
    - Eye contact, look into your camera
      * If you have a setup where you can’t look into your camera, just make that known and let them know you’re looking at your main screen.
    - Posture. Don’t sit like a shrimp!!! Sit up, stand up if you can (standing desks rise up!)
    - Speak directly and with intent. Try not to beat around the bush. Your interviewer is trying to determine your personality and skill set. Make that skill set very clear to them.
  + SMILE! It doesn’t have to be huge but give off at least a neutral-friendly demeanor.
    - Enter your interview, smile when you greet them
    - Before answering a question, try to look at least neutral. Don't look like you’re in pain even if you are.
  + Feel free to gesticulate. Talk with your hands if it’s natural. It should be a good match to what you’re saying, not a distraction.
  + THANK YOUR INTERVIEWER WHEN YOU’RE DONE! Just a simple “thank you for your time” goes a longer way than you might think.
  + Make sure your space is clean or just throw on a background wallpaper etc. If you must be somewhere that’s visibly dirty. Acknowledge it. “Sorry my room is a mess I have 5 kids” etc.
* Donts
  + Do not vape on cam or do anything your grandmother wouldn’t like to see.
  + Don’t be gross. If you need to cough or sneeze, just move off camera or cover your mouth. Don’t pick at your face or pull your hair etc. Yes it’s fine to scratch yourself.
  + Try not to show any “negative” mindsets in the interview. This includes:
    - Sighing before answering questions “\*SIGHHH\* well...”
    - Don’t yawn if you can avoid it
    - Seeming uninterested or unmotivated. Do you want to hire someone that has zero motivation?
    - Try not to show fear etc. They can smell fear.
  + DO NOT CHEAT. DON’T DO IT. DO NOT. CHEAT. If they catch you, you’ll just get released period.
  + Don’t ask your interviewer about things they won’t know. They usually have no idea where you’re relocating or when you’ll start or even what jobs you’ll be put on. They CAN probably answer things like “What can I expect after this? Do you have an idea of when feedback will come out? How did I do and what can I improve on?”
  + Try avoiding too much informal talk and slang. “Imma” -> “I’m going to”
    - Your interviewers are probably older. Likely senior or lead devs. They’re probably not in their 20’s. They have no idea about the latest tiktok trends.
      * “Sarcasm doesn’t land on Indians” -Vishnu
    - NO CURSING!
  + Basically, don’t do anything you wouldn’t do during QC.

**Mentally Preparing Yourself**

* BREATHE. Some of you aren’t breathing as you read this. Relax your body. Lower your shoulders, unclench whatever’s clenched.
  + 7 4 7 – breathe in 7 seconds, hold it for 4, breathe out for 7 seconds, repeat.
  + “4 in, 4 out, 4 in, 8 out” - Justin
* Make sure you get enough sleep the night before. Try for AT LEAST 6 hours, 8 ideally. You may not realize it, but you do yourself a big favor in terms of lucidity and clarity in your speech.
* Eat something. Your brain needs energy to burn through.
* Know the Playbook obviously. Make sure you can scroll through that spreadsheet and our other study guides and have a quick answer for each question
  + TAKE BREAKS! Have a game running in the background, have a show you can tune into for 5 minutes at a time. Go on a walk.
  + Try to study in different ways while doing something mindless. Watch someone talking about infosys interviews while you fold laundry.
* Superhero Poses – poses that “trick” your brain into feeling a bit more confident. Placebo or not, it works.
  + Standing straight up with hands on hips.
  + Standing and leaning with your palms on the desk like you’re in an intense business meeting.
* Stretching helps a lot. Stretching releases “feel good chemicals” and it also just feels good in general. If you don’t know how to spend that last 5 minutes before the interview, just stretch it out and refer to the first bullet in this section.
* Know and accept that not everyone is getting selected. Infosys is NOT your make or break, it’s just the interview that’s first in line after training. There is still a life to live after these interviews.