Grand Circus Bootcamp
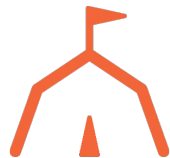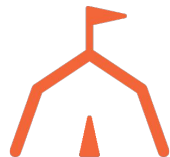
HackerRank

HackerRank

HackerRank is a website where you can practice code challenges. Some companies will send a HackerRank challenge to complete as part of the technical interview.
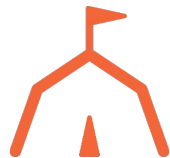
HackerRank

There are many other sites out there that are similar to HackerRank. Once you learn to use one, the rest should be easy to adapt to. Here are just a few examples.

- [CodeWars](#)
- [Leetcode](#)
- [Coderbyte](#)
- [Edabit](#)

HackerRank

First, sign up for a free HackerRank account. Pick the "For Developers" option. Answer any initial questions they have to set up your account.

Which HackerRank Challenges?

Start in the Prepare section (not Certifications for now). Here are a couple sets to try first:

- [Algorithms](): Here you'll find the "Solve Me First" challenge, and others that are good for beginners.
- [Interview Preparation Kit](): Warm-up Challenges section

Understanding the Challenges

Each problem has a detailed description of the task. In almost every challenge, your job is to complete a single function. The instructions include a "Function Description" which gives the specifics of the function.

There's a lot of starter code below the instructions. Look through and find the function somewhere in that code. **You should only write code *inside that function*.**

Input/Output

The instructions specify sample input and output data. HackerRank works by providing input data on "Standard In" (stdin) and reads the program output from "Standard Out" (stdout). You don't have to worry about this. All that other code in the starter deals with the input and output.

Input (Function Parameters)

The instructions describe the input and the constraints (i.e. limits) for what that data may be.

The input ends up being passed as arguments to your function. Again, the surrounding code converts it from the stdin format to the parameters your function needs.

Output (Function Return Value)

The output typically corresponds to the return value of your function. Although, sometimes the instructions ask you to print out the results to the console.

Again, any formatting of the return value data is taken care of for you.

Solving the Challenge

First, make sure to select the language you want to work in. The option is at the top of the starter code.

Next, write code inside the specified function to complete it. Do not change any code outside the function, including the name, parameters, etc. of the function.

Where Does the Data Come From?

When solving the challenge, you don't fill in any of the sample values. You are writing the function, but you are not calling it.

When you click "Run Code", HackerRank will call your function. Actually, it will probably call it multiple times and pass it different arguments each time.

Test Cases

When you click "Run Code", you see one or more sample test cases. Each test case is one time HackerRank tried to run your function with different data. In each case it checks to see what your function returned or printed out and checks to see if it's right.

If a case fails, it shows red and tells you the error or what your function did versus what was expected.

Run Code & Submit Code

Work on your code and click "Run Code" as many times as you want until all the tests pass (turn green).

When all tests pass, your code is probably right. Click "Submit Code". It will run your function a few more times to see if it can handle some even tricker data. You'll get a score based on how many cases your code passed.

Debugging in HackerRank

You can still write/log to the console inside your function. These will appear in "Debug output" in each test case. (You might need to scroll down inside the test case.)

Debugging in HackerRank

You can also test your code with your own data. Check the "Test against custom input" checkbox.

Make sure to carefully follow the input format specified in the instructions.