

Mahmoud Moustafa  
Assignment 1

# Interaction 1:

Who is the person(s) you met? Name, affiliation, position

The first interaction was with Jivitesh Gudekar. He is a data scientist at Vestcor

Where did you meet this person?

I met him at a career fair.

What did you learn about them?

He told me that he was a systems engineer at Tata Consultancy Services from 2015 to 2018. Then, he went to Dalhousie university to get a master's degree in computer science. After getting the master's degree in 2019, he went on to become a data scientist at Vestcor. He said he enjoys working there. He told me about the nature of working as a data scientist and why he enjoys it.

What did you tell them about you?

We spoke about my resume and transcript. We also spoke about the courses I should take that would improve my chances of becoming a data scientist at Vestcor. He also recommended that I take some courses online that would vastly improve my data science skill-set. He sent me the links to such courses via email. We also shared jokes around while keeping it as professional as possible. So we set up for a friendship and a business relationship as well.

Was the interaction a "success"? Why (or why not)?

I would say this interaction was a success, because I got a connection inside Vestcor who apparently is willing to help me get a job there should I choose to. I also walked away with his email; in other words, I can contact him directly now. I walked away with action steps to take that will help me improve as a person, and as a data scientist should I choose to become one.

## Interaction 2:

Who is the person(s) you met? Name, affiliation, position

Hemanth Gandepalli. A data engineer at Day & Ross

Where did you meet this person?

We met at a coffee shop, since we have a mutual friend who was kind enough to make the introduction.

What did you learn about them?

We spoke about his background and how he transitioned from being a GIS analyst at LEA Associates South Asia Private Limited in India to becoming a data engineer at Day & Ross. He told me that he got his first internship in India as a GIS intern at Regional Remote Sensing Center for 2 months. He then became a full-time GIS analyst at LEA Associates for almost a year. He then decided to come to UNB to complete his graduate studies. After completing his studies, he went on to become a research data analyst at UNB for almost a year. From then until the time we spoke, he became a data engineer at Day & Ross. He probably still is now. He told me he liked working for Day & Ross. He told me about the nature of his job. What his day to day responsibilities are. What he was expecting before starting his role at Day & Ross and what his job actually is, what matched and what did not.

What did you tell them about you?

We spoke about my resume, how I can get a job at Day & Ross. We spoke about my future plans, ambitions, what I want to achieve in life, what I think is most important in life. We spoke about how I can achieve my goals and what my plans are to achieve them. He was kind enough to help me enhance my plans. He gave me a lot of tips to implement daily that would help me improve my life and improve as a man. He also recommended some things I should do if I want to get a job at Day & Ross.

Was the interaction a “success”? Why (or why not)?

I would say this interaction was a success. I learned a lot from him even though he works at a position in which I would have to be a professional engineer to get to. Since he also decided to help me with my plans to achieve my future goals, I would say that this interaction was very fantastic. He was also comfortable giving me his phone number (maybe because we already have a mutual friend) and told me to call him if I need help and/or decide to get a job at Day & Ross.

## Interaction 3:

Who is the person(s) you met? Name, affiliation, position

Mohammedreza Kowsari. He is currently working at JD Irving as a data scientist.

Where did you meet this person?

He was kind enough to schedule a MS Teams meeting with me to talk about data science.

What did you learn about them?

First we spoke about each other to get to know each other, then we started speaking about his background in IT and how he eventually became a data scientist at JD Irving. We spoke about his time as a research and project engineer and research assistant in Memorial University of Newfoundland. Then we spoke about how those experiences helped him transition into working at ExxonMobil as an upstream technical computing engineer. He then went on to become a data scientist at JD Irving for a year now.

What did you tell them about you?

I told them that I have spoken to other professionals at JD Irving and they all told me that JD Irving likes to hire students for co-op and then rehire them after they graduate. I told them that I was told that they like to retain their employees for as long as possible and whether he finds this the case. We spoke about my future plans, my goals, how I can get my permanent residency and then citizenship. We spoke about how my future would be if I decide to join JD Irving as a data scientist. We also spoke about my background and how I can improve my chances of becoming a data scientist at JD Irving. He also spoke to me about the courses that I should take that will help me become a data scientist.

Was the interaction a “success”? Why (or why not)?

I would say yes. Although not in every aspect because the conversation felt kind of awkward at some points but we kind of got along in little time. I got a lot of value from this conversation and now, someone in JD Irving knows me and I know someone in JD Irving.

## Interaction 4:

Who is the person(s) you met? Name, affiliation, position

David Adelekan, Full-stack developer at Sonrai Security

Where did you meet this person?

We met on LinkedIn. I sent him a message asking about his current position at Sonrai Security and he got back to me.

What did you learn about them?

We found out that we have a lot in common. He told me he is from Africa and so am I. He told me he always liked working with computers since he was young so he kind of picked it up at a young age and so did I. I lived in the middle east (still go back every summer) and so did he. etc. We then spoke about his time at his university and how he enjoyed it. We then spoke about how he came to the decision of coming to Canada and, with the benefit of hindsight, how he feels about this decision. We then spoke about his professional decisions, how he started, where he started which turned out to be Nigeria. He worked three intern jobs. He then became a full-time software developer in Nigeria as well. From then he took another job that was remote for a very short period of time. I got intrigued about how these past jobs helped him come to Canada, he said he went to UAE first for a couple of years. Then he decided to come to Canada where he found the job he currently works at. We then spoke about what his plans for the future are and whether he would like to stay in Fredericton.

What did you tell them about you?

We spoke about how I also lived in the middle east and how much I love it and what my future goals are for my life and how I plan to achieve them. We spoke about getting my permanent residency and citizenship and whether he thinks it is worth the price being paid. We spoke about my experiences in the middle east. We spoke about my opinion on what is going on in the world now. As much as I was enjoying the conversation, I did not want to waste his time as a professional. We then spoke about my resume, my courses, and what I should do in order to become a full-stack developer.

Was the interaction a "success"? Why (or why not)?

I would say it was a success as we bonded on our shared past experiences. We had a lot in common which helped establish the basis for a friendship before a professional connection. I gained a lot of knowledge from him as he is much older than I am. He helped me a lot with my future based on what I value the most, which is something I don't remember finding in any of my other interactions.

# Interaction 5

Who is the person(s) you met? Name, affiliation, position

Kunal Mahajan. Software developer at IBM.

Where did you meet this person?

He is friends with one of my roommates. That is how I was introduced to him.

What did you learn about them?

We spoke about his time at UNB and how he kept his GPA while getting an MBA since I am seriously considering getting one after graduation. We then spoke about how he integrated his IT background with his MBA knowledge to become the professional he is now. We then spoke about his time at JD Irving as a full time software developer, what it was like to work there, what his experiences were, what he liked and disliked about it, why he decided to leave, and whether he would recommend working there. He proceeded to tell me about his time with IBM and how it is. He went on to tell me how much he likes working for IBM and how they are a very good company when it comes to the way they treat their employees. We spoke about his experiences as a software developer and how he got past the hurdles that were in front of him along the way.

What did you tell them about you?

We spoke about my background. We spoke about why I chose to major in computer science. We also spoke about what my plans for the future are. I told him about what I want to do in my short term future. I showed him my resume and he was kind enough to point out little details to add and remove to help me improve it. I told him that I want to take external accredited courses that will help me achieve my goals and he recommended certain ones for me.

Was the interaction a “success”? Why (or why not)?

I would not call this interaction a full success because I did not get as much value as I was hoping to get out of it but it was a very informative and eye-opening interaction. Nevertheless, I got a lot of valuable information. I got a much needed assistance and insight from someone who is in a position that I am interested in. I got to learn how it is like to work in a well-established company. I did