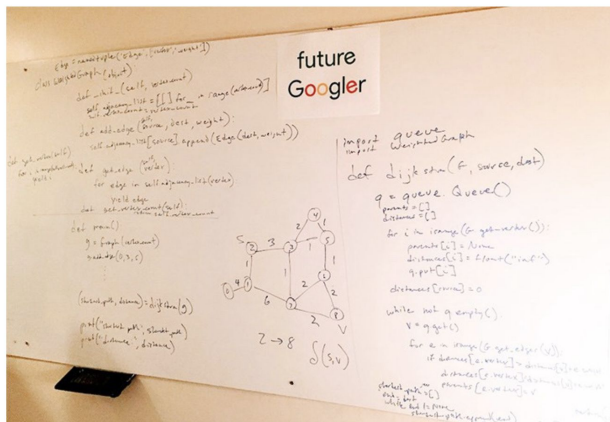


6 Weeks to Interview Ready





Why I studied full-time for 8 months for a Google interview



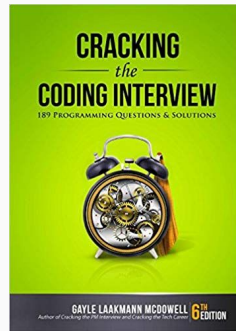
It's true. I've spent thousands of hours reading books, writing code, and watching computer science lectures, all to prepare for the Google software engineer interview.

<https://www.freecodecamp.org/news/why-i-studied-full-time-for-8-months-for-a-google-interview-cc662ce9bb13/>



How is this course different?

- Most people just list stuff to learn
- Most people focus on quantity of problems
- Most people tell you you have to learn every obscure concept



Interview Cake



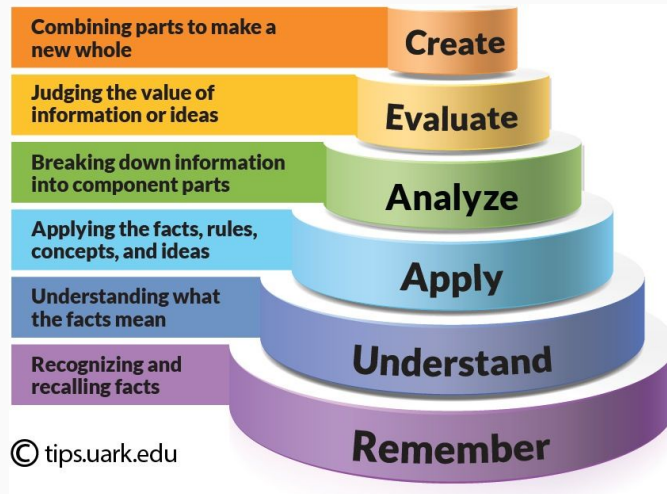
bytebybyte

My goals for this course

- Help you nail your interview (duh)
- My specific focus:
 - Get *good enough*
 - Build confidence
 - Have a system

Get you “good enough” at interviewing

- Interviewing is it's own skill
- How good do you actually need to be to be successful?
- Unless you want to become a professional interviewer, the goal should be to get just good enough.
- Aiming for Apply/Analyze level



[Bloom's Taxonomy](#)

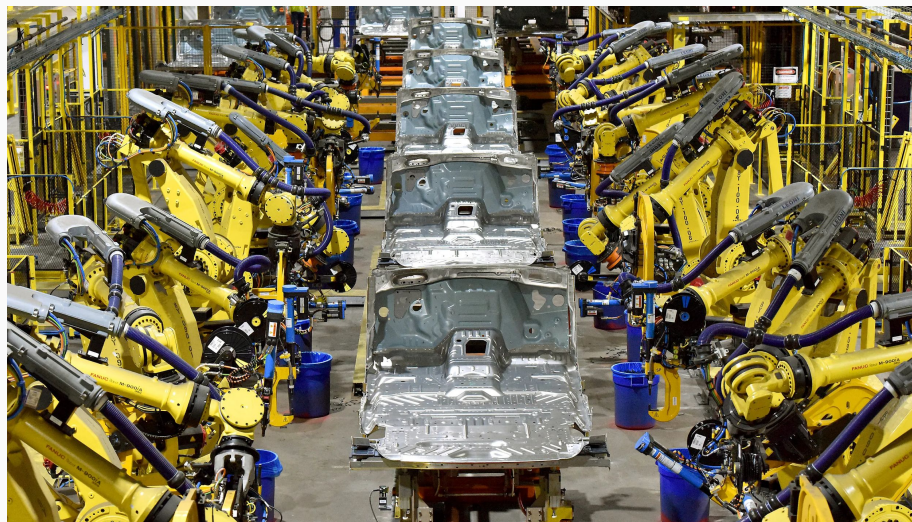
Build your confidence

- The #1 reason people fail interviews is lack of confidence!
- Nervousness == Lack of confidence
- Forgetting stuff == Lack of confidence
- Memorizing == Lack of confidence



Have a system

- The easiest way to get screwed up is by not having a system
- A system allows you to perform consistently in your interviews regardless of the situation
- You'll also avoid getting stuck



I want you to be asymmetrical

The most important rule of trading is to play great defense, not offense.

- Paul Tudor Jones

<https://www.marcellagerwerf.com/15-trading-rules-paul-tudor-jones/>



How this course works

- Core modules
- Workbook
- Topic-specific bonus material

Module 1 - Getting Started (you are here)

- Laying the course foundations
- Setting your mindset
- The 3 Pillars of Coding Interviews
- Developing your Lean Study Schedule
- Establishing a clear baseline



Module 2 - Your Problem Solving Framework

- The #1 reason that people fail their interviews again and again
- How to turn your interviewing into a repeatable system
- My 6 step system for solving any coding interview question, even if I've never seen it before
- The counterintuitive problem solving step that 90% of people completely skip

Module 3 - Optimizing Your Solutions

- Why prematurely optimizing our code actually hurts us more than it helps
- The REAL expectations our interviewer has for our code optimization
- Determining whether our code can be improved using the “best conceivable runtime”
- How to optimize any code using the BUD system

Module 4 - Tackling Hard Problems

- The 3 “hail mary” strategies to use when you’re really stuck
- How to avoid your mind going blank when facing a hard problem
- Why modularizing is critical to your interview success
- What most hard interview questions have in common, and how to handle them easily

Module 5 - Tying Everything Together

- Completing your ultimate interview system
- How to ensure that you're able to execute, even under pressure
- Develop the true confidence of a great interviewee
- Your foolproof pre-interview plan

Module 6 - Where To Go From Here

- Why most studying that you do is totally ineffective and how to study differently.
- How to learn twice as much in half the time
- Avoid “illusions of competence” so that you can be confident you know what you think you know

One last note...

- This is going to be hard, but it will be worth it

https://www.espn.com/golf/story/_/id/8865487/tiger-woods-reinvents-golf-swing-third-career-espn-magazine



The 3 Pillars of Interviewing

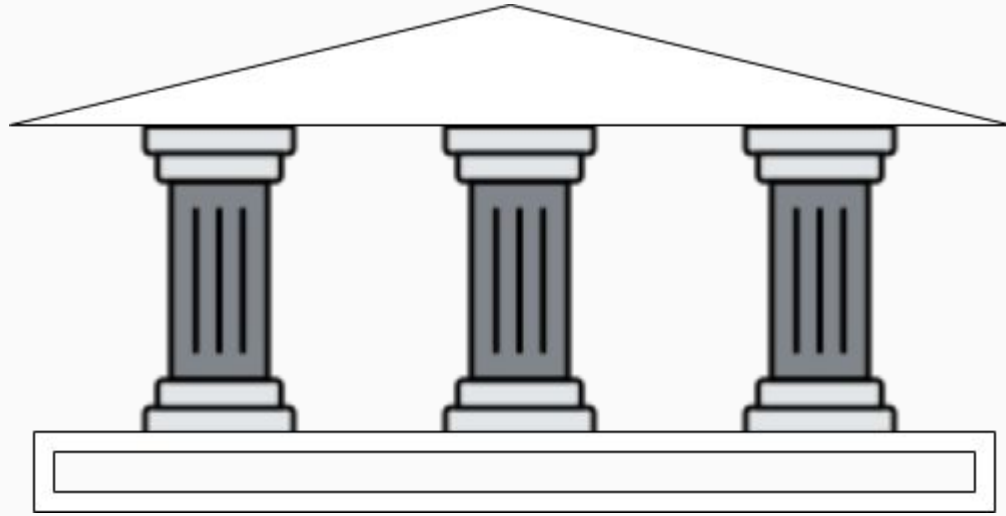


Why is interview prep so hard?

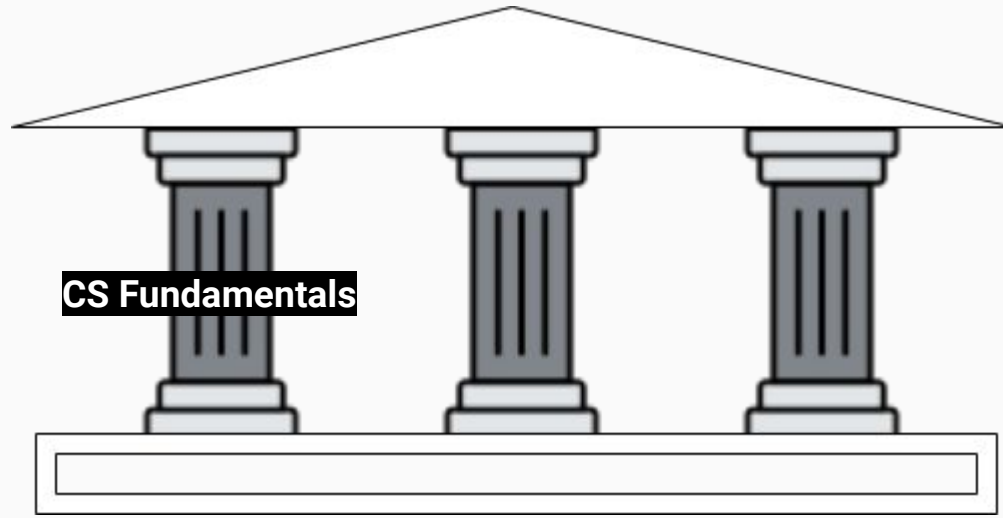
- So many different resources
- So many things to learn
- Your focus is pulled in a million directions so you don't make much progress in any direction



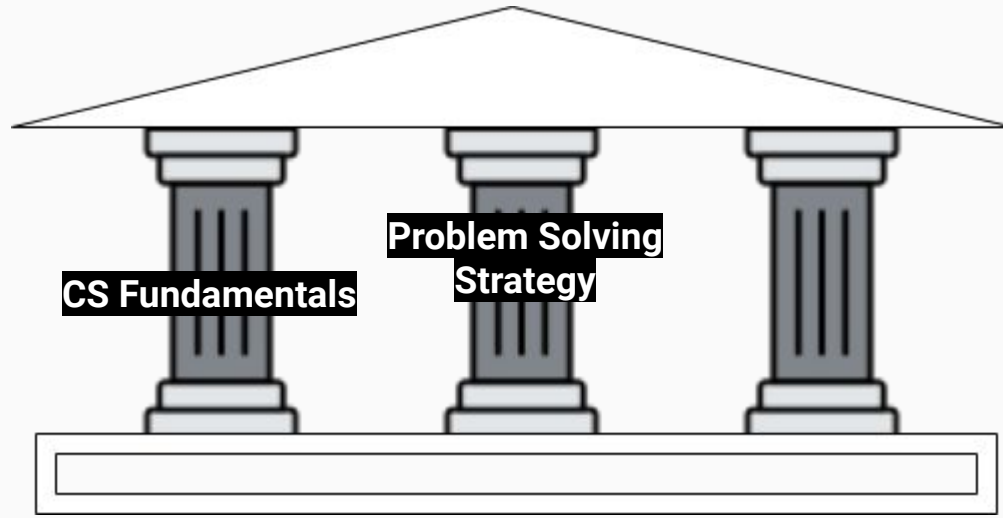
3 Pillars of Interviewing



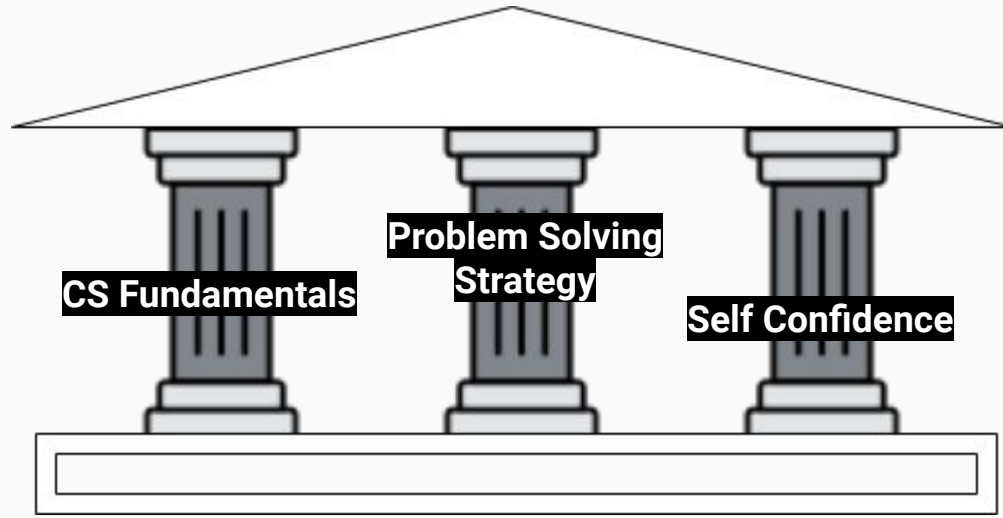
3 Pillars of Interviewing



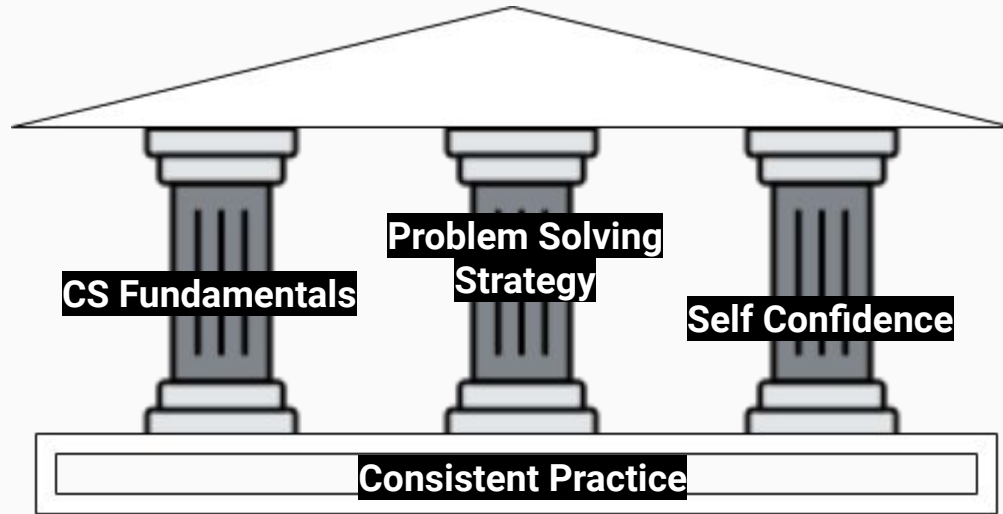
3 Pillars of Interviewing



3 Pillars of Interviewing



3 Pillars of Interviewing

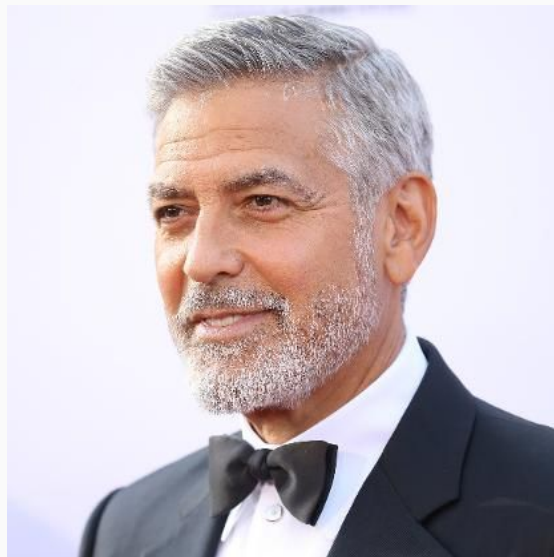


10 Interview Myths

1. Your interviewer wants you to fail

“I had to stop going to auditions thinking, 'Oh, I hope they like me.' I had to go in thinking I was the answer to their problem.”

- George Clooney



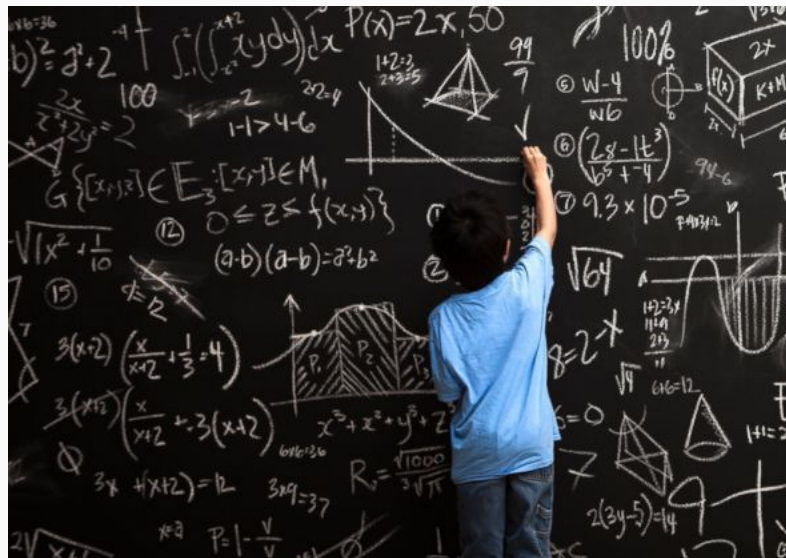
2. Your interviewer expects you to immediately know the solution

- How long do you have to come up with a solution before they fail you?
- There is no single answer, but this is not the metric interviewers care about
- They care much more about how you work through the problem
- The best interview questions are too involved to immediately just see the solution



3. You succeed or fail within the first 2 minutes of your interview

- “If I don’t immediately see the solution, then I can’t solve the problem.”
- This is what we’re tackling in this course
- The best interviewees are good at *problem solving*. Not pattern recognition



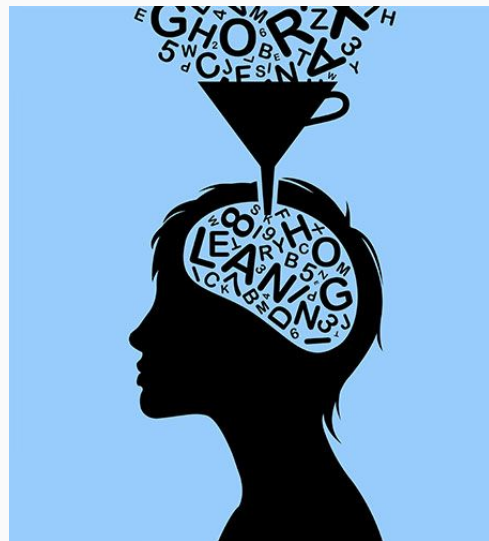
4. If my interviewer gives me a hint I've already failed

- Hints aren't necessarily a bad thing. Remember it's all relative
- Small mistakes are only a problem if you make them a problem
- I treat each hint as a small deduction
- Parker Phinney: They may be trying to guide you away from common pitfalls



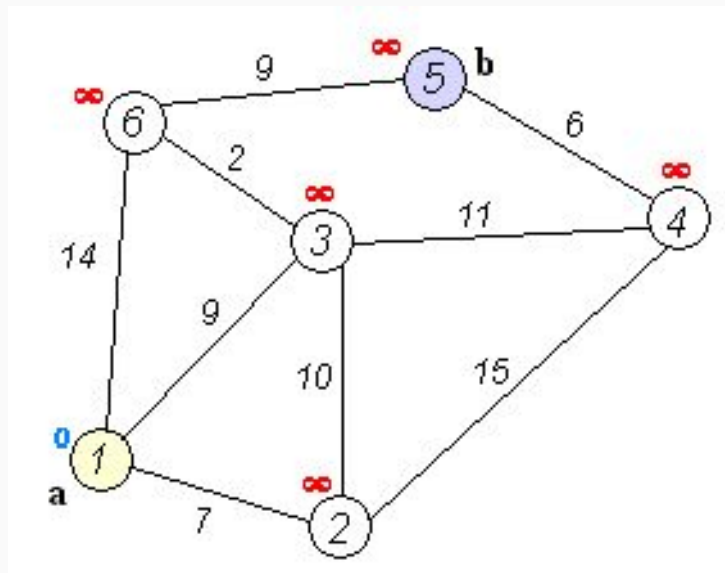
5. The best way to succeed is to memorize as many solutions as possible

- This is the premise behind grinding on Leetcode
- The best way to succeed is to know how to work through problems you *haven't* seen before
- This is a much more time-effective approach



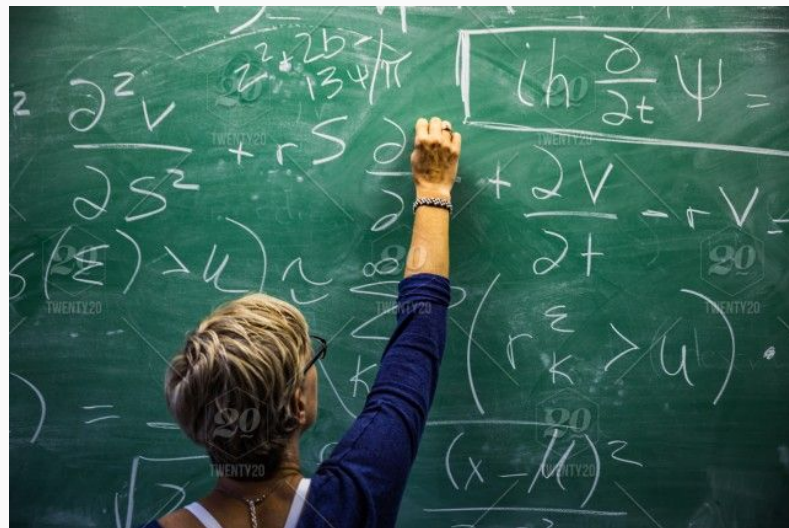
6. You need to memorize all the named algorithms

- This is an easy way to waste a ton of time
- Memorizing algorithms is slow.
Memorizing the names is even worse
- Better to focus on the basic strategies rather than the specific algorithm



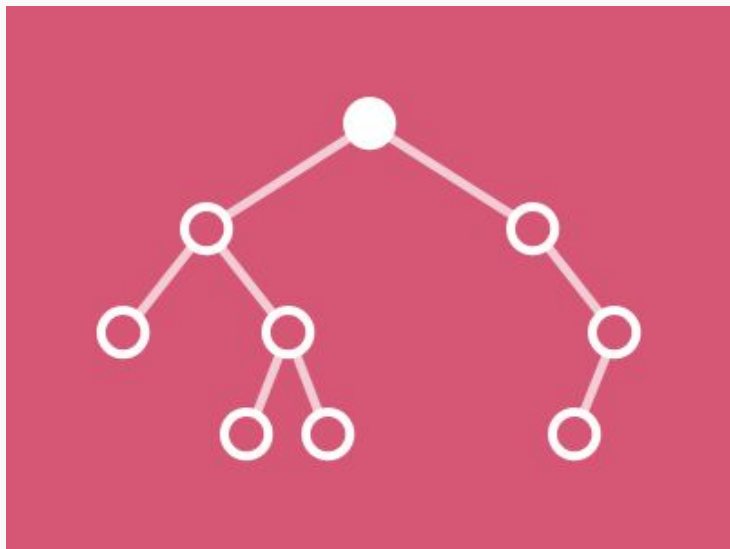
7. Everyone else is way better/smarter than me

- I've totally felt this way. Some people are just really smart
- Mostly, this is impostor syndrome
- Self-fulfilling prophecy. Lack of confidence breeds lack of success



8. Interviewing successfully is about deep DS and Algos knowledge

- Yes this is important...
- ...But the #1 most important thing is your problem solving skills
- You need to have the fundamentals, but beyond that, going deeper has major diminishing returns



9. Companies always ask really hard questions

- Seems logical but often not true
- Almost never harder than expected, but frequently easier than expected
- If you practice hard problems, then your interview will be easy by comparison



10. It is better to overprepare

- Personal preference, but I don't want to waste time
- You don't know if you're ready or not until you try
- If you mess up, you can always interview again in the future
- Would you rather maybe get the job now or just wait a year and still not be guaranteed the job?

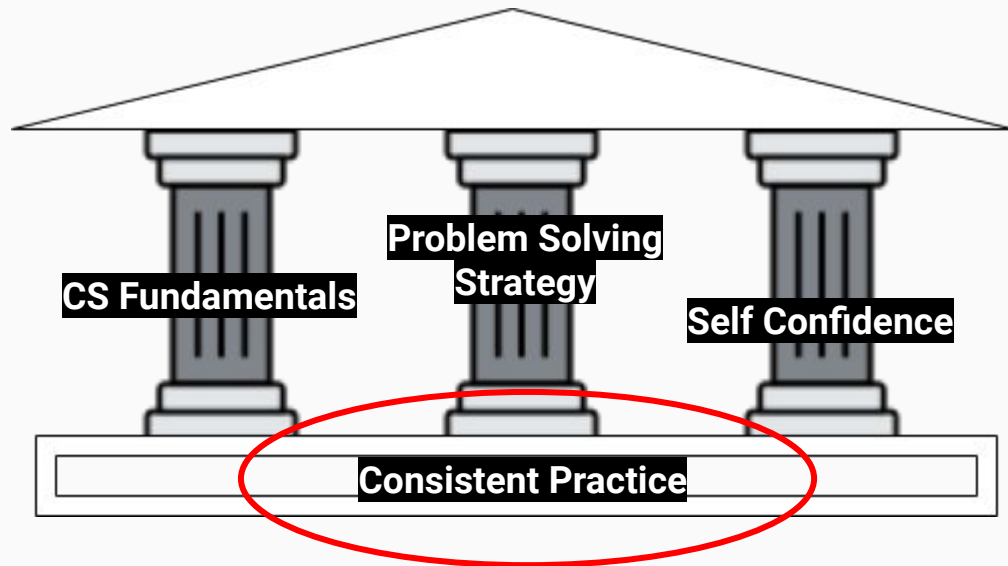


Developing Your Lean Study Schedule



bytebyte

The One Key to Interview Success



How do we stay consistent?

- There's lots going on in our lives
- Interviewing definitely isn't the most fun thing
- We create a Lean Study Schedule to keep us consistent

What is a Lean Study Schedule

- The goal here is not to study as much as possible
- Instead, we want to develop a minimal schedule **that you can stick to**
- Aiming to minimize effort and maximize results

How to create a Lean Study Schedule

1. Start with your busiest day. Where can you squeeze in 15-30 minutes of studying?
2. Block off the time in your calendar (what gets scheduled gets done)
3. Expand to the rest of your week. Try to keep the same time if you can

Tips for your Lean Study Schedule

- Don't overcommit
- Plan ahead and find a time that works for you
- Understand your why



“I don't have any time”

- This is almost certainly not true
- Is there an existing spot on your calendar that is regularly available?
- Can you move anything around to free up time?
- Can you study:
 - On your commute?
 - During your lunch break?
 - Wake up 30 minutes earlier?
 - Stay up 30 minutes later?



“I don't have any time”

- Still can't find time? Do a time audit
 1. Set an alarm to go off every 30 minutes
 2. Record what you did for the last 30 minutes
 3. Repeat for a week
 4. Look back and see how much time was wasted

Google for lots of good resources



The myth of motivation

- “Professional writers don’t have muses; they have mortgages.” — Larry Kahaner
- Just sit down and do something
 - Daily exercises will make this easier
- The 5 minute rule
- If you’re really struggling, find something easier to do like reading a chapter of a textbook
- Focus on building a habit and momentum



The Workbook

Your Interview Prep Plan

- The workbook is your plan
- It includes daily exercises for the duration of the course
- It will help you reinforce everything that you're learning throughout the course

How to use the workbook

- Set aside 30 minutes per day to go through the exercises
- I recommend watching the week's lessons first
- Do one set of exercises each day
- Try to be as consistent as possible

“I want to go faster”

- If you have extra time, you can do multiple problem sets per day
- However, I would recommend you follow the prescribed pace
- If you have extra time, focus on improving your fundamentals

“What if I get behind?”

- This is TOTALLY FINE!
- First, don't stress out or beat yourself up about getting behind
- Just pick up where you left off and reset your intention to be as consistent as possible