The Complete Coding Interview Checklist

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Before Coding

Understand the problem

- [ ] Restate the problem in your own words
- [ ] Ask clarifying questions about terms within the questions
- [ ] Verify the expected input types and formats
- [ ] Understand the required output
- [ ] Discuss input constraints and determine target time and space complexities.
- [ ] Consider possible edge cases and how to handle them.

Plan your solution

- [ ] Share your thought process with the interviewer
- [ ] Propose a high-level solution
- [ ] Explain why you chose this approach
- [ ] Choose data structures that fit the problem
- [ ] Ensure your algorithm meets the constraints

While Coding

Write Clean and Correct Code

- [ ] Use descriptive variable and function names
- [ ] Write readable and well-formatted code
- [ ] Implement your solution step by step
- [ ] Include checks for edge cases in your code

Verbal Communication

- [ ] Think and talk out loud
- [ ] Make sure you don't lose the interviewer
- [ ] Don't go quiet if you are stuck - keep talking

After Coding

Test Your Code

- [ ] Test your code with sample inputs, including edge cases
- [ ] Verify that it produces the correct outputs

Complexity Analysis

- [ ] State the time complexity of your solution
- [ ] State the space complexity
- [ ] Confirm that it meets the problem's constraints

Communicate and Reflect

- [ ] Walk through your code with the interviewer
- [ ] Clarify any parts that may be confusing
- [ ] Listen to the interviewer's suggestions
- [ ] Be willing to discuss alternative approaches