**1. Buy a whiteboard**  
Yes, that’s right—go to your nearest office supplies store, buy yourself a whiteboard and some EXPO markers to go with it. Prepare to get your hands dirty, because having a real whiteboard to write on will help you get a grip of what it feels like to scribble out your thoughts. Plus, writing on a whiteboard is much different from pen and paper, so being familiar with the whole process will make it easier over time.

**2. Have a list of practice questions**  
Although it’s difficult to predict what questions you will be asked the day of your interview, compiling a list of potential whiteboard questions is essential to helping you practice and gain confidence, as you would do for the non-technical portions of your interview. Make sure to list out different kinds of problems, because your interviewers will want to test your ability to solve on the spot. Variation is key.

**3. Simulate the actual experience**  
There’s no better way to get a feel for what the whiteboard interview would be like than having a mock interview with someone who has done it before. If you don’t know someone who is readily available, [Codementor](https://www.codementor.io/" \t "_blank) has thousands of expert developers who can help you prepare and practice for your interview. You can even schedule a mock interview with experienced technical interviewers and hiring managers to evaluate your strengths and weaknesses so you can properly prepare for the real thing.

Remember, practice makes perfect!

**4. Watch someone else do it**  
Everyone learns differently, so watching someone else demo a whiteboard interview is an eye-opening experience as you prepare for yours. Don’t only watch though—be sure to carefully listen and ask questions. If you’re unable to find someone, there are plenty of informative videos and examples to watch so you can better understand what to expect.

**5. Train your brain: practice thinking out loud**  
Whiteboard interviews are not meant to be a silent matter. Interviewers want to know what you are thinking and how you approach challenging questions. Talking out loud may not come naturally to you, but that’s okay. Try articulating your thought process as you complete your daily tasks, like your morning routine, with as much detail as possible. This will help you get used to what you’re expected to do during the whiteboard interview.

To take it further, you want to also practice your speaking and presentation skills. Being able to properly communicate your thoughts in a calm and effective manner is key. Don’t forget that the whiteboard interview is, in some ways, a hybrid of a technical test of the depth of your knowledge and also a social exercise.

**6. Get lots of sleep**  
One of the most harmful things to do the night before your big interview is to pull an all-nighter, so be sure to set your alarm (or multiple alarms) and get sufficient rest so you can wake up energized and recharged. Also, plan to arrive at least 30 minutes to an hour *before* your interview. This helps ensure that you do not show up late and will give you some time to do a last-minute prep before you begin the interview.

DURING THE WHITEBOARD INTERVIEW

**7. Ask Questions**  
Once you are are given a question, take a deep breath and a moment—but not too long—to assess the problem before you begin. If something is not clear or you feel like you need additional information before you can continue, be sure to ask your interviewer for clarification with a few follow-up questions to eliminate any ambiguity.

**8. Explain your thought process**  
After the details of the task are clear, be sure to talk out loud as you solve the question. The interviewer wants to know what is going on in your head and understand your approach to the task at hand, so being able to explain your thoughts is crucial. For this portion of your interview, often times, you will be judged on your thought process, regardless of whether you’re able to provide a solid answer.

Keep in mind that even if you are unable to solve the problem, you want to be able to show that you’ve taken the logical steps to attempt to do so.

**9. Be confident**  
Sometimes, during your whiteboard interview, it may be difficult to think of an answer when you’re on the spot, but keeping your cool and staying confident in your abilities will always leave a good impression. You’ve put in the time and effort to prepare yourself for your whiteboard interview, so trust your instincts and go with your gut.

Even if you feel like you may not have provided the best answer, make sure to stay positive, engage with the interviewers, and persevere to the end of the interview. You won’t be judged only on the whiteboard portion of your interview, so even if you had a small hiccup, don’t worry about it. They are judging how you handle tough situations, and tough questions.

* Do you ask questions to get clarity on the goal?
* Do you focus on the users and their contexts?
* Do you make valid assumptions and ask the right questions?
* Do you go beyond UI and think holistically about the whole scenario?
* Do you understand basic design principles and patterns?
* Do you mention weaknesses and improvements in your solution?

1. **Ask questions to specify the challenge**
2. **Ask about the users and their context**
3. **Write down the main steps of the story**
4. **Draw a few critical screens**
5. **Summarize the story, talk about alternatives, improvements or other use cases**

* What is the goal of the design?
* What are some details and context of the challenge?
* What is the timeline, device or other constraints?
* What are the different types of users?
* What are some assumptions of their behaviors & problems?
* What are the common use cases?
* What are the benefits we should provide?
* Draw your story based on what’s listed in step 3
* Draw only the critical screens in the story
* Draw clearly and label the drawings
* What if this is for a food court at the airport?
* What if this is for a group of people or families?
* What about using one’s own device to make the order?
* How about showing a terminal map?