

# Coding on the Fly

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## Pitfall 3: Mishandling mistakes



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## By the end of this video you will be able to...

- Find and recover from mistakes when coding a technical question in a technical phone screen

# We all make mistakes

- Bugs are an almost inevitable part of coding.
- Especially when we're problem solving in real time while also programming, it's very common to make mistakes.
- This is okay!
- The interviewer will expect you to make some mistakes. He or she is actually interested in what you do with these mistakes.
  - Do you catch them?
  - Can you fix them?
  - Can you get back on track?

# Let's watch Huang recover

- Clip will be the specific piece where she's writing the loop

# Tips

- Notice how Huang traced the code she had written with an example.
- By tracing through the code she wrote, not what she intended to write, she was able to catch the error.
- She acknowledged the mistake, explained how to fix it, and implemented the correction.
- Notice that she didn't get flustered or down on herself.

# Another mistake

- Sometimes, even tracing through doesn't catch all the bugs. In this example, there's another error that the interviewer spots.
- If you can't find the mistake, it's okay to ask for hints or to talk through assumptions.
- Huang listened carefully to the suggestion to think about the difference between String / character representation and integers and found the bug: using the ASCII code for the character instead of the integer value.