

Coding on the Fly



Pitfall 1: Assumptions / Failure to Clarify the Problem



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

- When given a problem in a technical phone screen, start by talking through potential issues and asking clarifying questions

You need to understand the problem

- When given the problem, there will almost certainly be ambiguities. This is the time to make sure you really understand the problem. In this clip, let's focus on how Huang does with this during her "poor interview example"

Insert bad Huang video here

- Huang Bad1 0->1:30 (could shorten if already shown)

Dives right into the problem

- So in this video, you see her dive right into the code but how can she code it yet?
- How can you solve a problem you don't fully understand?
- Now is the time to try to clarify the problem by asking questions
- The questions you ask to clarify the problem show how you think about solving problems (which is a major part of the interview)
- Let's see how she does in a better example

Insert good Huang video here

- Huang Good1 0:00 -> 1:08

Huang asks questions

- She's off to a MUCH better start
- She asked key questions about the nature of the problem. Does she need to handle decimals, values like e or π , and negative numbers.
- Now that she understands the problem she can start coding
- Think about what this told the interviewer about her thought process (thinks through corner cases BEFORE coding)
- Don't stop talking yet – in the next video we'll discuss the importance of talking throughout the TPS