

Key Tips and Reminders for Technical Interviews

Boost your resume by including a skills section.

Look for “keywords” on the job postings and company websites. Using these “keywords” in your resume and past experience sections might help your application stand out in automatic screenings. If you don’t have work experience, list some projects you worked on during your time at school.

Practice for your interviews with realistic constraints.

Most technical interviews are usually timed. The structure of the technical interview will be explained to you prior to the interview. It is helpful to practice some timed coding problems in preparation. If your technical interview is “live” it is a good idea to also speak through the coding problems and how you would come to a solution.

NOTE: The process for coming to the solution is more important than the correct answer itself.

Technical interviews are not only about technical prowess. Keep these tips in mind when preparing!

- Technical Interviews are also about soft skills such as communication skills. Be yourself, show confidence and presence. It’s an important opportunity for interviewers to assess if you would be a strong addition to their team. It is more important that you show your communication skills and teamwork skills than it is to be perfect in your solution.
- It is okay to say that you do not know about XYZ. Simply mention how you would find the information and where you would find the information to show how you seek out information needed for tasks that may be new to you.
- Name assumptions and additional information you need when speaking through your solutions and work.
- When stuck, it’s okay to ask questions. It helps build rapport and shows that you are interested in finding solutions and are seeking more information.
- Find partners or experienced people, such as someone who is working in a similar capacity to your interviewing position, to do mock interviews.
- Understand your experience and resume, and be prepared to talk about it. It can be helpful to come into any interview with a 2-3 minute version of your career journey that includes your relevant experience, where you are hoping to go next in your career, and how this position is aligned with your future goals.
- Think out loud. Finding the right solution is not the only aim. Let your interviewer know what your thought process is by talking out your thoughts - explicitly. This will also help the recruiter guide you in the right direction. This is what interviewers are looking for. They do not want someone who can just code, they want someone that knows how to solve problems and communicate how they reached a conclusion.
- Always remember to send a quick thank you note to your interviewer 1-2 days after your interview. Visit the Sample Messages resource for a template.