

title: **Interview tips and tricks?**

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#### #### Post Text ####

Adhd Programmers, what are some of the things that have worked for you during technical interviews? It's very hard for me to get a job because it's tougher for me to remember the details during technical interviews. I do better explaining to someone but interviews nowadays test memory rather than problem solving or application of concepts. I once wrote a whole working app using almost every sensor on an iPhone but Fuck if I remember the function call to reuse table cells or the name of the image processing library to scale the image. I love ios programming but I feel I can't grow until I start working with other programmers in a production setting.

#### #### Comments ####

##### Commenter\_2

ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 6

Ease off any stimulants you are on. I've been on both sides of that interview table and it never goes well. I've talked my way out of jobs I was qualified for because I couldn't shut up, and I've passed on candidates who were too amped up to know when to stop talking.

Also, anyone who thinks that being able to recite function names off the top of your head is a good criteria isn't someone you want to work for.

##### Commenter\_3

ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 3

We just got a new boss and he essentially re-interviewed everyone here a few weeks ago. I was so nervous because he seemed a little patronizing when I first met him, plus I'm the newest person here, I'm young and I'm female.

I essentially pulled up my resume and then summarized it like it was conversation. Then I wrote it down, read over it a few times and then tried to rewrite it from memory so I could see what I was having trouble remembering. I read it throughout the day to help me remember the details once he called me in.

It went fine but when I came out of his office my coworker told me my whole face was still red 15 minutes later haha

##### OP

ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 2

> young

Thanks Britzka! I too struggle with talking with new people/decision makers. I have found that being very positive and having lots of energy helps any situation and that is something young people have a lot of. Steer the conversation to a topic you are strong in. I find that to easily disarm someone, you have to beat them to the punch. It goes something like this...I'm so nervous..., this reminds me of the interview I had with <company> where I was applying for <job description>. We were talking about my experience with <job responsibilities> blah, blah, blah...". Once the conversation is on your terms, you will own it . Memorizing like you described, never works for me. It makes me more nervous. Beating them to the punch always works for me and has gotten me out of more that a few sticky situations.

##### Commenter\_5

ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 2

Its fairly standard to bring a resume with you to an interview; sometimes I bring notes with me as well. The notes look like part of my resume or work history, but are notes I've made for myself on projects I've worked on, key concepts, frameworks, etc. I'll refer to them from time to time during the interview. It seems to help.

>I love ios programming but I feel I can't grow until I start working with other programmers in a production setting.

Sounds like you are focused on a solid area of programming. In my experience, what matters most are your skills in an area and the ability to demonstrate it. Sample code, working examples, ability to discuss concepts unique to the area, etc.

Do those things, keep interviewing, don't get discouraged and hang in there.

##### Commenter\_6

ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 2

I brought my resume once during a job interview and it gave me a bad impression. I'll try "notes"

##### Commenter\_5

ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 3

It made you look bad? Really?

All the HR pros I talk to say to bring a couple of printed copies with you. The interviewer might say "I don't have your resume, do you have a copy?"

I do the same with notes.

... and samples of source code. When they start asking questions about it I can pull source code out and talk about it/show it to them.

##### OP

ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 2

Thanks captain.

##### Commenter\_7

ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 2

I can tell you from someone who's been programming and taking Adderall for over 16 years, remembering what this thing or that thing is as much a function of core confidence as it is amping up your mental receptors. I went on a 5 day hiatus from Adderall, woke up at 10:00 in the morning to answer an interview screen half-awake. I could tell that the person on the receiving end was open to what I was saying and the terminology came to me all the same as if I were on full dosage.

Again I did this 10 minutes (conservative) after I woke up, returned their call and instantly started spitting tech talk.

The problem is chicken-egg. Where do you get confidence to recall facts and speak with expertise without the uppers you used to do it?

I found my confidence by reading a book about understanding how to win people over. The book says that people are less concerned with people who have some unrealistic encyclopedic-recall ability or are some magical industry-speak jabber monkey than they are with how the person is as a person.

I've applied this to every interview since I've read that and in looking back have no expectations that those interviews will result in anything other than offers.

Moreover, when on stimulants you may or may not have the calmness or resolution to be personable while communicating \*some\* understanding of what you do.

However off of stimulants you're going to be able to be more relaxed, natural and charming.

Some technical interviews I've gone into started out \*extremely\* cold rigid and informal. All I did to reverse that situation was to insist on not breaking my personable likable frame in spite of the interviewer's attempts to stay distant and informal. I eventually managed to get that person to open up, in which (this is key) an \*honest\* dialogue as to how I would or could work within the company got started.

The way I figure, if the person absolutely refuses to engage in a dialogue with you, you're probably entering into a contract with a person or company that is going to work you like a fucking robot in a sweatshop anyway, and treat you with about as much respect. Stay away from these people.

Some may not be that way, but if you're selling yourself on that basis, what do you think they might be expecting based on how you've sold yourself?

##### OP

ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 1

Thanks, this is helpful. Can you tell me what book you read about winning people over?

##### Commenter\_7

ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 1

How to Win Friends & Influence People

##### OP

ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 1

Thanks!