Interview preparation tips and resources

Hello everyone ! I recently received a FTE and Co-op intern offer from Intuit.It is like a dream come true for me . I haven't felt this happy in a long time . The last time I felt good about myself ,making my parents proud was when I scored 95 percent in my tenth standard and ever since that my life has been a roller coaster ride — failing in JEE ,not getting IITs or NITs, self-doubt and feeling like a failure .

But you know what there was always a little part of me that wanted to achieve all those goals I set for myself and desperately wanted to see that big smile on my parents face again . And I did achieve my first goal on 16/07/2021 when I recieved the offer . So here I just want to say that please don't give up on your dreams no matter what , no matter what others say to you , no matter what you're going through right now because one day you will make it and that will be your day :)

I know preparing for interviews is hard but believe me with consistency anything is possible . Hang in there ,my friend !To help you with that here are a list of resources that helped me to master data structures and algorithms and increase my problem solving skills.

To practice questions , the websites that I followed :

Leetcode- It is undoubtedly the best platform to practice DSA and the most important part of leetcode is the community discussions on each problem where you can see the approach others followed to solve that problem which is really helpful .

Geeksforgeeks- It has everything that a computer science student will ever need . You can practice topic wise questions as well as company specific questions from here . Also reading about interview experiences helps a lot too.

InterviewBit- If you are preparing for interviews and you don't have much time left and need to brushen up your concepts then you should go for Interviewbit. It has a limited number of quality problems and has timer set for each problem depending upon its difficulty level which sets an interview like environment.

Now you may ask what questions to practice as there is an overwhelming number already from so many DSA topics .I followed a list of questions basically DSA sheets made by **Love Babbar** and **Striver(take you forward)**.

Striver's SDE sheet :It contains 150 questions and includes every DSA topic . It is really helpful in providing a structure to the preparation. It would take approx 1–1.5 months to complete it and you can go for it if you have 2–3 months before interviews.

450 Cracker Sheet : It contains a list of 450 questions and would take 5–6 months to complete it if you're a complete beginner as first you'll need to study that topic and then practice questions from it . But if you already know the basics then it could be completed in 3–4 months .

Both the sheets are equally good ,it just depends on how much time you are having for your preparation .

If you get stuck at a particular topic , here's a list of resources to help you with that -

1. Arrays -for basics , you can watch playlist by Neso Academy . For sorting techniques , follow playlist by mycodeschool .
2. Binary Search- follow playlist by mycodeschool.To practice questions, follow this article on leetcode by whoami .
3. Strings- for important string algorithms , you can follow Abdul Bari Sir's videos and Techdose .
4. Sliding window Algorithm- playlist by Aditya Verma . To practice questions and understand the pattern , follow this article on leetcode .
5. Hashing -playlist by Pepcoding .
6. Linked List- playlist by Vivekanand Khyade sir on youtube .
7. Stacks and Queues- playlist by Aditya Verma .
8. Recursion — playlist by Pepcoding .
9. Binary Trees -watch playlist by Vivekanand Khyade Sir. To practice questions , follow this article on leetcode.
10. Binary Search tree- watch videos by mycodeschool .
11. Greedy -Greedy-for-Beginners-Problems-or-Sample-solutions
12. Backtracking — follow Back to Back SWE videos on YouTube .The way he explains those questions on backtracking is priceless .To practice questions on it ,follow this article on leetcode .
13. Heaps- follow TechDose playlist on heaps .
14. Trie- to understand tries ,follow the playlist by Techdose .
15. Graphs- to master graph , striver's graph playlist is the best . Do watch it and then you can follow this article by whoami on leetcode.

16. Dynamic Programming- you can watch the playlist made by Aditya Verma. He teaches it so effortlessly that you will stop fearing DP .His lectures on DP are the best . Also , to identify patterns in DP , you can follow this article dynamic-programming-patterns .

17. Core Subjects like OS,DBMS ,CN — you can watch videos by Gate Smashers and Knowledge Gate on youtube . For OOPS — follow playlist by Saurabh Shukla Sir . It will definitely clear the basics.

These are some of the resources that I followed after exploring a lot and if you find them helpful please subscribe to the above mentioned channels for providing great content for free :)

Tips :

- during the initial days , start by solving easy problems to develop coding and problem solving skills.After solving 7–8 easy questions from each topic move on to medium level questions as they are mostly asked in interviews.

- Please don't cram solutions as there is no point wishing you will remember the solution in an actual interview instead try understanding the underlying concepts .Make sure to clear basics first and read the theory about basic implementations of various data structures and algorithms .

- Whenever you are not able to solve a question , do not give up easily . Try solving it for an hour or so and if you are then unable to solve ,better look at the solution , try understanding that and implement on your own . It is totally fine to look at solutions as long as you've tried enough :)

- After solving a question make sure to go to the discuss tab on leetcode and have a look at better solutions posted by other users, compare your solution with them in terms of time and space complexities. This will furthur increase your problem solving abilities.

- Try creating a peer group with whom you can discuss questions and it will furthur broaden your skills besides keeping you on track and bring you back during days of demotivation.

- Make notes of all what you have learnt from a question, a trick or techinque for these will be handy when you will need to revise(like I made a git repo of all the questions or algorithms I practised).

- Do not go after the quantity of questions rather focus on the quality of questions that you practice .