

Level 60 — insert() & erase() (vector ka real pain area)

[1] insert() — adding in the middle:

```
v.insert(position_iterator, value);
```

Example:

```
vector<int> v = {1, 2, 4};
```

```
v.insert(v.begin() + 2, 3);
```

Result: 1 2 3 4.

What ACTUALLY happens internally:

- Elements after index 2 are shifted right.
- Possible reallocation.
- Time complexity: $O(n) \times$.

👉 This is NOT cheap. Remember that.

[2] erase() — deleting elements: v.erase(position_iterator);

Example:

```
vector<int> v = {1, 2, 3, 4};
```

```
v.erase(v.begin() + 1);
```

Result: 1 3 4.

Internal reality: Elements after erased one are shifted left.

Time complexity: $O(n) \times$.

[3] Erase a RANGE:

```
vector<int> v = {1, 2, 3, 4, 5};
```

```
v.erase(v.begin() + 1, v.begin() + 4);
```

Removes: 2 3 4.

Remaining: 1 5.

👉 Second iterator is NOT included

④ **BIGGEST beginner mistake (DON'T DO THIS):**

✗ Wrong:

```
for(int i = 0; i < v.size(); i++) {
    if(v[i] % 2 == 0)
        v.erase(v.begin() + i);
}
```

Why wrong? `erase()` shifts elements. Index gets messed up. Elements get skipped. This bug is VERY common.

⑤ **Correct way (iterator-safe erase):**

```
for(auto it = v.begin(); it != v.end(); ) {
    if(*it % 2 == 0) it = v.erase(it);
    else it++;
}
```

This is DSA-grade correct code.

Situation setup:

Index:	0	1	2	3	10	20	30	40
Value:	10	20	30	40		↑		

it points to 20.

it

Step 1: What does `erase(it)` do? `v.erase(it);`

- ✓ 1. Deletes element. Vector becomes:

10	30	40
----	----	----

.
- ✓ 2. RETURNS iterator pointing to next valid element.

Step 2: After deletion:

10	30	40
----	----	----

 ↑ 30 shifted left.

erase(it) → iterator pointing to 30.

Step 3: Why `it = erase(it)`? Old it invalid. Update it.

`it = v.erase(it)` means: Delete current, move it to next safe.

$$v1 = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$$

① *it = 1, it is address

$$i_1 = 0 \times$$

$$it++ \quad it$$

② *it = 2, v1 = {1, 2, 3, 4, 5}

$$2 \% 2 == 0 \checkmark$$

erase (2)

$$v1 = \{1, 3, 4, 5\}$$

it

it has same address

if (*it % 2 == 0) {

it = v1.erase(it);

③ *it = 3, v1 = {1, 3, 4, 5}

$$3 \% 2 == 0 \times$$

else it++

$$*it = 3, v1 = \{1, 3, 4, 5\}$$

it

$$3 \% 2 == 0 \times$$

else it++

④ *it = 4, v1 = {1, 3, 4, 5}

$$4 \% 2 == 0 \checkmark$$

erase (4)

it has same address

$$v1 = \{1, 3, 5\}$$

it

no, it++

⑤ *it = 5, v1 = {1, 3, 5}

if

now, it = v1.end()