

## Data Analyst Roadmap 2026

Following is the roadmap for anyone aspiring to become a **Data Analyst, Business Analyst**, or any form of **Analytics Professional** in 2026. It includes FREE learning resources for technical skills (or tool skills) and soft (or core) skills 🚀

This roadmap is designed based on the analysis of hundreds of Data Analyst jobs and our own experience of working on Data projects at AtliQ Technologies (<https://www.atliq.com/>). More than 90% of our clients at AtliQ are SMEs (Small to medium-sized enterprises) based in the USA.

**Data Analyst Jobs Analysis:** [https://github.com/codebasics/job-scrapper/blob/main/Analysis/Data%20Analysis/data\\_visualizer.ipynb](https://github.com/codebasics/job-scrapper/blob/main/Analysis/Data%20Analysis/data_visualizer.ipynb)

**Link to our full YouTube video for this roadmap:** [https://youtu.be/d8U2G2\\_7dnM](https://youtu.be/d8U2G2_7dnM)

**Find Your Suitability:** Before starting your journey, it is important to understand whether this role truly aligns with your natural strengths and interests.

Take this short suitability test to identify if a Data Analyst career is the right fit for you:  
<https://codebasics.io/find-your-match-da>

Proceed further if the results show that this career role matches you.

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Total Duration: **4-6 Months (4 hours** of study every day, 6 days a week)

Roadmap is valid for **freshers, career transitioners and experienced professionals who are looking to land a job in the following roles**

**General:** Data Analyst, Business Analyst

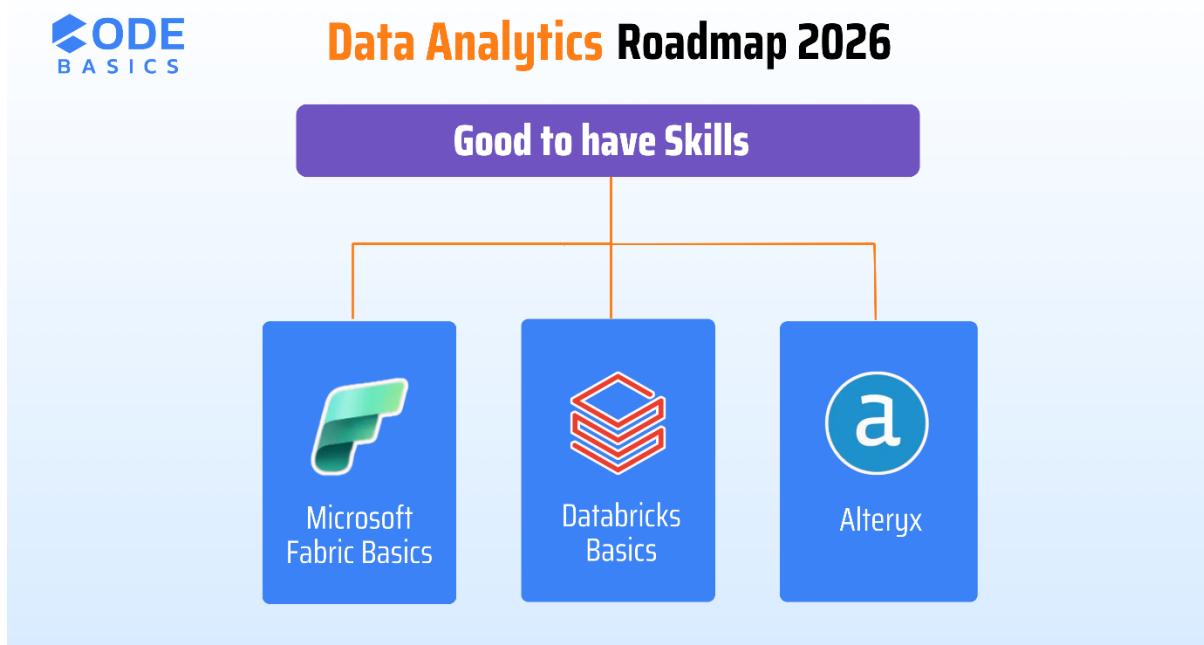
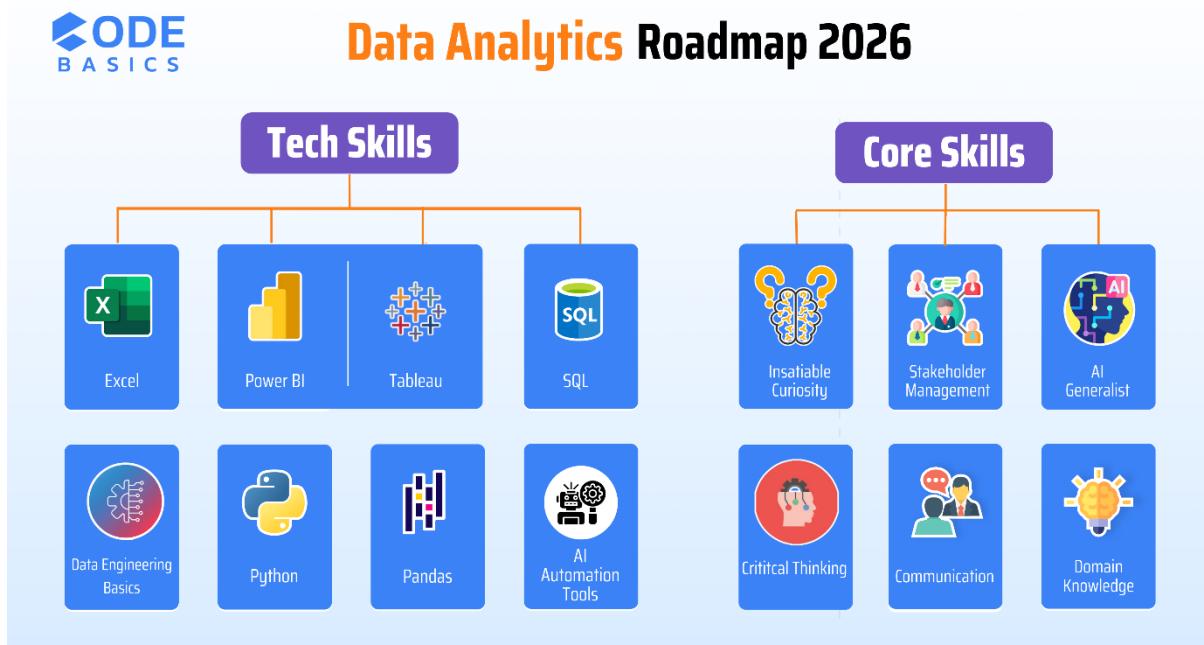
**Reporting / BI Analysts:** MIS Executive, Reporting Analyst

**Function-Based Analysts:** Marketing Analyst, Sales Analyst, Finance Analyst etc.

**Domain-Based Analysts:** Retail Analyst, FMCG Analyst etc.

**Full Stack Analysts:** Analytical Engineer

Check the diagrams below for tech vs. core skills, as well as some good-to-have skills.



## Week 0: Fundamental Research + Preparing your Mind & Body

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### Research Questions Checklist

- Is there growth in the market for this role?
- Are people getting jobs for this role?
- Is it possible to transfer DA skills to other data roles in future?
- Is there reasonable pay for this role?
- Are there enough free resources for me to check my interest?
- Who are the big players (products) in my field of interest?
- Is there an active community of aspirants and professionals?
- What kind of problems are being solved in the industry using this field?
- Will this problem remain relevant in a few years to come with advancements in AI?
- Does this role align with my natural capabilities & interests?

### Research Questions Checklist:

#### WEF Report:

[https://reports.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_Future\\_of\\_Jobs\\_Report\\_2025.pdf](https://reports.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Future_of_Jobs_Report_2025.pdf)

**Reality Check:** [https://www.linkedin.com/posts/hemvad\\_data-aspirants-know-this-reality-1-this-activity-7261582534826717184-9imE](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/hemvad_data-aspirants-know-this-reality-1-this-activity-7261582534826717184-9imE)

**Data Analyst Career in 2026:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NWsU7IRAGr8>

### Scam Awareness:

There are many active scams targeting aspirants at various stages of the journey  
Scam Awareness Course: <https://codebasics.io/courses/scam-awareness-course>

### Preparing your Mind & Body

1. Accept that you are entering a competitive field
2. Train to use internet as your second brain
3. Disengage from "Victim" mindset people
4. Engage with "Hero" mindset people
5. Create a consistent sleep cycle
6. Eat mindfully, move regularly
7. Read any spiritual book

## Week 1 and 2: Excel and Business Math/Statistics + LinkedIn Profile

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- **Excel**

- Topics
  - Basic Formulas: SUM, AVERAGE, PRODUCT, MEAN, MEDIAN, IF, SUMIF
  - Advanced Formulas: VLOOKUP, MATCH, INDEX
  - Pivot Tables
  - Basic Charting, Filters, Sorting
  - Power Query
  - Ignore VBA, Macros etc.
- Learning Resources
  - Track A (Free)
    - Business math using Excel: <https://youtu.be/npgbl8KYvN8>
    - Google templates gallery for personal finance: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/u/0/?ftv=1>
    - Budget planner: <https://www.vertex42.com/ExcelTemplates/budgets.html>
    - Chandoo's YouTube channel: [https://www.youtube.com/@chandoo\\_](https://www.youtube.com/@chandoo_)
  - **EXTREMELY IMPORTANT:** Use ChatGPT 🤖 as your personal tutor in case you have questions or facing issues
  - Track B (Affordable Fees)
    - Codebasics Excel course: <https://codebasics.io/courses/excel-mother-of-business-intelligence/>

- **Business Math and Statistics**

- Topics:
  - Business Math
    - Arithmetic, Percentages
      - YoY (Year over year) Growth or Decline: When Apple grew from 50 to 60 million, what is the % growth?  
Answer: 20 %

- If below is the cell phone sales breakdown, what is the % Market Share of iPhone? Answer: 42.10%
    - iPhone - 40 billion
    - Samsun Galaxy -20 billion
    - Google Pixel – 5 billion
    - Others – 30 billion
  - Basic Statistics
    - Mean, Median, Standard Deviation, Bell Curve, Percentile
- Learning Resources
    - Business math: <https://youtu.be/npgbl8KYvN8>
    - Business math (Hindi):  
[https://youtu.be/vtrbOri8lag?si=DNmHRAbQCof5N\\_6H](https://youtu.be/vtrbOri8lag?si=DNmHRAbQCof5N_6H)
    - <https://www.khanacademy.org/>
      - Intro to percentage  
<https://www.khanacademy.org/math/pre-algebra/xb4832e56:percentages#xb4832e56:intro-to-percents>
      - <https://www.mathsisfun.com/>
- **LinkedIn - Core Skill**
    - Create a professional-looking LinkedIn profile.
      - Have a clear profile picture and banner image.
      - Add tags such as: Open to work etc.
    - Use this LinkedIn Checklist to create a profile: [Click here.](#)
  - **Why is LinkedIn important?**
    - Imagine you are skilled at making samosas. You open a shop in a village where the footfall is very low. You are now struggling to sustain the business. Your best friend then gives you advice to move the shop to a busy street in a big city. You move it to a city, and now your business is flourishing.
    - LinkedIn is like that busy street where your profile will be noticed by hundreds of people. Creating good looking profile (i.e. opening a shop) is only a first step; you need to build strong online credibility (i.e. making tasty samosas and providing good customer service) which we will discuss in the further sections.

- Many people have the wrong mindset that "I will learn technical skills first and work on LinkedIn last". Building online credibility will take a long time, hence it is better to start working on it from day 1 📱



- **Motivation**

- Fresher BCom to Data Analyst Podcast -> <https://bit.ly/46VtfJK>
- BSc. Fresher to Data Analyst Transformation -> [Link](#)

- **Assignment**

**(Use the assignment tracker: [Click here](#))**

- **Upskilling**

- Create your own budget based on your monthly expenses.

- **Showing your work**

- Post the template of your budget sheet on LinkedIn and share your learning experience. *(Tag Codebasics, Dhaval Patel and Hemanand Vadivel with the hashtag #daroadmap26 so we can engage to increase your visibility)*

💡 Insight: Only 60 among 100 aspirants continue further. You be one among them 😊

## Week 3, 4, 5: BI tools (Power BI or Tableau) + LinkedIn Engagement + Domain Knowledge

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### More research:

#### Research on Trends:

- What is unified analytics?
- What is Microsoft Fabric, Databricks?
- What is the edge for data analysts in age of AI?
- What is the significance of [Gartner Magic Quadrant for BI?](#)
- What are the leading tools in the area of BI?

#### DA FAQ Navigator:

We have collected all the questions asked by aspirants, added our responses and resources: <https://codebasics.io/da-navigator>

#### Offline Community:

Here is an offline community made by data folks for the data folks

Indian Data Club (Discord): <https://discord.com/invite/SQ3rU3ddFq>

Indian Data Club (LinkedIn): <https://www.linkedin.com/company/indian-data-club>

- **Power BI**

- Topics
  - Connecting to different data sources
  - Data transformation in Power Query
  - Creating metrics using DAX & Data Modelling
  - Creating visuals
  - Dashboarding
  - Publishing to Power BI Service
- Learning Resources
  - Track A (Free)
    - Sales insights Power BI project: <https://bit.ly/3C1WKgA>
    - Hospitality Insights Project: <https://bit.ly/3DPBcoj>
    - Cricket T20 Project: <https://bit.ly/3j5I7ID>
    - HR data analytics project: <https://bit.ly/41vxcUz>

- YT Channels to Follow:
    - [Curbal](#)
    - [Guy in a cube](#)
    - [How to Power BI](#)
    - [Learnwidwiggs](#)
  - Track B (Affordable Fees)
    - My Power BI course that can make you job-ready: <https://codebasics.io/courses/power-bi-data-analysis-with-end-to-end-project>
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- **Tableau**
    - Codebasics sales insights project: [Tableau Project For Beginners | Sales Insights Playlist - YouTube](#)
    - Hindi codebasics sales insights project: [Tableau Project in Hindi\(Sales Insights\) Playlist - YouTube](#)
  - **Should I learn Power BI or Tableau?**
    - If someone asks me to pick between Power BI and Tableau, I always suggest Power BI as it is growing in popularity as compared to Tableau.
    - This Gartner research shows Power BI is leading a BI game: [Check here.](#)
  - **LinkedIn - Core Skill**
    - Start following prominent data influencers!
      - Hemanand Vadivel: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/hemvad/>
      - Injae Park: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/injae-park/>
      - Shashank Singh: <https://bit.ly/4apSv7>
      - Raghavan P: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/raghavan-rp/>
      - Naveen S: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/naveen-s6/>
      - Alex the Analyst: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/alex-freberg/>
      - Munna Das: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/munnadas/>
      - Thodupunuri Bharath: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/thodupunuri-bharath/>
      - Luke barousse: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/luke-b/>
      - Ian K: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/ian-klosowicz/>
      - Brian Julius: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/brianjuliusdc/>
      - Marco Russo - <https://www.linkedin.com/in/sqlbi/>
      - Chris Webb - <https://www.linkedin.com/in/chriswebb6/>

- Patrick LeBlanc - <https://www.linkedin.com/in/patrickleblanc/>
  - Increase engagement!
    - Start commenting meaningfully on data analytics and career-related posts
      - Helps network with others working in the industry build connections.
      - Learning and brainstorming opportunity
- **Business Fundamentals / Domain Knowledge - Core Skill**
  - Get a basic understanding of Domains and Functions
    - [Link to detailed post](#)
  - Learn business concepts from ThinkSchool and other YT Case Studies
    - Example: How Amul beat competition using analytics:  
<https://youtu.be/nnwqtZiYMxQ>
  - Learn P&L fundamentals
    - There are many data analyst positions in finance department of any company and learning P&L is super important for this role
    - Resource: Investopedia
    - Power BI course for integrated business and tech learning.
- **Outreach - Core Skill**
  - Start asking questions and get help from the community. These posts show how to ask questions the right way:
    - <https://bit.ly/3I70Ebl>
    - <https://bit.ly/3tezRFi>
- **Motivation**
  - Mom with career break to Data Analyst: <https://bit.ly/3MI2uRc>
- **Assignment**
  - **Upskilling**
    - Do one unguided project from this list: <https://bit.ly/43v4Ni2>
    - Read and understand the P&L statements of at least 3 public companies

- **Show your work**

- Make a post on the unguided project on LinkedIn:

- Example: <https://bit.ly/4737ckl>

- (Tag Codebasics, Dhaval Patel and Hemanand Vadivel with the hashtag #daroadmap26 so we can engage to increase your visibility)

- Make sure you make at least 1 meaningful comment every day!

- 💡 Insight: Only 50 among 100 aspirants continue further. You be one among them 😊

## Week 6, 7 and 8: SQL + ATS Resume + Project Portfolio

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### Research

- What are the projects your professional connections are working on?
- What are the 2 major reasons professionals are growing in their careers?
- What strategies do people who land jobs use?
- How do analysts collaborate with data engineers in real projects?

- **SQL**

- Topics
  - Basics of relational databases
  - Basic Queries: SELECT, WHERE LIKE, DISTINCT, BETWEEN, GROUP BY, ORDER BY
  - Advanced Queries: CTE, Subqueries, Window Functions
  - Joins: Left, Right, Inner, Full
  - Stored procedures and functions
  - No need to learn database creation, indexes, triggers etc. as those things are rarely used by data analysts.
- Learning Resources
  - Track A (Free)
    - Free SQL Tutorial with exercises:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rm0xH2VpfI0>
    - Khan academy: <https://bit.ly/3WFku20>
    - <https://www.w3schools.com/sql/>

- <https://sqlbolt.com/>
- Track B (Affordable Fees)
  - SQL course for data professionals:  
<https://codebasics.io/courses/sql-beginner-to-advanced-for-data-professionals>
- **Presentation - Core Skills**
  - Learn presentation skills
    - Death by PowerPoint:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lwpi1Lm6dFo>
- **ATS Resume Preparation**
  - Resumes are dying but not dead yet. Focus more on online presence.
  - Here is the resume tips video along with some templates you can use for your data analyst resume:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=buQSI8NLOMw>
  - Use this checklist to ensure you have the right ATS Resume: [Check here.](#)
- **Portfolio Building Resources:**

You need a portfolio website in 2025. You can build your portfolio by using these free resources.

  - [Novypro](#)
    - Helpful to add Power BI and Excel Projects.
  - [Datascience portfolio](#)
    - Helpful in creating a quick static Portfolio
  - [Linktree](#)
    - Helpful to add multiple links on one page.
  - [GitHub](#)
    - Another way to add projects and showcase it to hiring managers.
  - [Codebasics Portfolio Website](#)
    - This is part of Codebasics Data Analyst Bootcamp.
    - Example Portfolios: <https://codebasics.io/portfolio/>
- **Assignment**
  - **Upskilling**
    - Participate in SQL resume project challenge: [Challenge Link](#)
  - **Showing your work**

□ Add a link of your projects in your resume and LinkedIn.

(Tag *Codebasics, Dhaval Patel and Hemanand Vadivel* with the hashtag *#daroadmap26* so we can engage to increase your visibility)

💡 Insight: Only 40 among 100 aspirants continue further. You be one among them



## Week 9: Data Engineering Basics + Stakeholder Management & Communication

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- **Data Engineering Basics**

- Topics

- What is a Data Pipeline? (bronze–silver–gold concept)
    - ETL vs ELT
    - File formats: CSV, JSON, Parquet
    - Data Lakes, Warehouses, Lakehouse (high-level only)
    - Basic understanding of Cloud Storage (Azure / AWS / GCP)
    - Concepts of scheduled jobs
    - Incremental refresh basics
    - What are the popular data engineering tools used in modern companies (e.g., Apache Spark, Airflow, Databricks, Microsoft Fabric)?
      - Apache Spark → Large-scale data processing
      - Airflow → Orchestrating workflows and scheduled jobs
      - Databricks → Collaborative analytics + Lakehouse
      - Microsoft Fabric → Unified platform combining engineering + analytics

- Learning Resources

- Track A (Free)
      - [What is Apache Spark?](#)
      - [What is Databricks?](#)
      - [What is Apache Airflow?](#)
      - [Data Warehouse vs Data Lake vs Data Lakehouse](#)
      - End-to-End Data Engineering Project in E-Commerce Domain using Databricks Free Edition - [Link](#)
      - End-to-End Data Engineering ETL Project in FMCG Domain using Databricks Free Edition - [Link](#)

- Track B (Affordable Fees)
  - Data Engineering Basics for Data Analysts Course - [Link](#)

- **Stakeholder Management & Communication**

Clear communication with stakeholders is crucial for a Data Analyst. Your insights are valuable only when understood, trusted, and acted upon. Managing expectations and communicating effectively elevates your role from producing reports to being a strategic partner.

- Topics
  - To become a highly skilled analyst, you must master:
    - How to manage stakeholder expectations
    - How to ask sharp, clarifying questions
    - How to translate vague business requests into concrete analytics problems
    - How to understand the actual need behind a stakeholder's ask
    - How to communicate insights with clarity (not fancy English)
    - How to tell a simple, compelling story behind your charts
    - How to present insights so stakeholders can take action immediately
- Learning Resources
  - Track A (Free)
    - [Tips for Designing Questions for Stakeholder Conversations](#)
    - [What are Stakeholders?](#)
    - [Stakeholder Management: The Most Important Skill Nobody Teaches by Bruce McCarthy](#)
    - Check this project video on how to communicate with a Stakeholder:<https://youtu.be/tT4V7zguCnc?si=C4qlEzMprBExYkFW&t=355>
  - Track B (Affordable Fees)
    - [Mastering Communication & Stakeholder Management](#) – Codebasics Course

- **Assignment**

- Finish all these exercises/projects from the resources provided.
  - Pick any domain (fintech, banking, healthcare, etc.) and write **5–7 clear questions** you would ask a stakeholder to understand their requirement.
- Post it on LinkedIn in **3–4 lines** and **tag Codebasics**.

💡 Insight: Only 30 among 100 aspirants continue further. You be one among them 😊

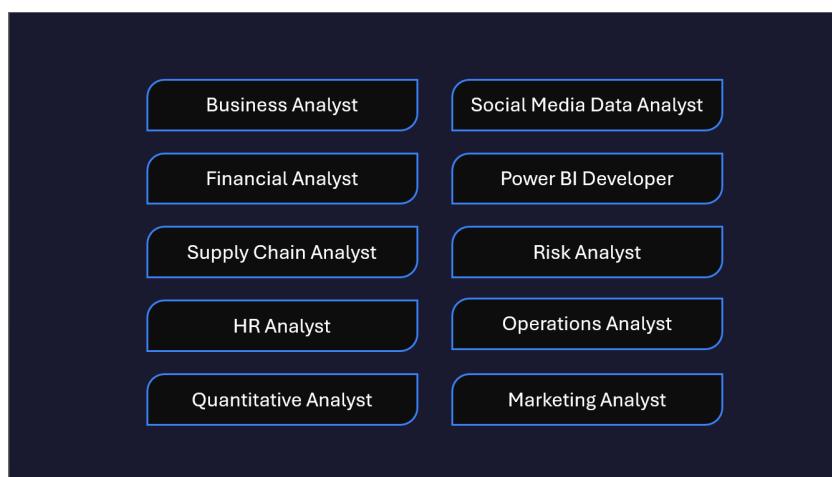
## Week 10, 11 and 12: Python & Pandas + AI Generalist + More Domain Knowledge

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### Research

#### Career Roles Related to Data Analytics:

When considering a career in analytics, it's common to first think of the Data Analyst role, but there are numerous other exciting opportunities across various industries. If you're learning data analytics, expand your prospects by acquiring domain-specific knowledge to explore diverse roles related to data analytics. For example, if you have domain knowledge in a specific field like HR, then HR Analytics could be a promising career opportunity as a data analyst.



check out this resource to understand more about the career role related to data analytics: <https://codebasics.io/resources/data-analytics-and-beyond-career-paths-you-should-know>

- **Python**

- Topics
  - Variables, Lists, Dictionaries, Tuples, If condition, for loops, functions, modules, file handling, classes and objects, exception handling
- Learning Resources
  - Track A (Free)
    - Codebasics python tutorials (first 16)
      - <https://bit.ly/3X6CCC7>
    - Codebasics python HINDI tutorials
      - <https://bit.ly/3vmXrgw>
    - Make sure to work on exercises in these folders:  
<https://github.com/codebasics/py/tree/master/Basics/Exercise>
    - Python Project: Large-Scale Data Analysis  
<https://youtu.be/1MGG75oUK7o?si=r1rRMabmYPxOCQAh>
  - Track B (Affordable Fees)
    - Python course: <https://codebasics.io/courses/python-for-beginner-and-intermediate-learners>

- **Pandas**

- Topics
  - Dataframe basics
  - Reading data from CSV/Excel files
  - Handling missing data
  - Group by, Concat, Merge
- Resources
  - Codebasics pandas playlist (first 9 ) -  
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLEo1K3hjS3uuASpe-1LfG5f14Bnozjwy>
  - Kaggle datasets: <https://www.kaggle.com/datasets>
  - Kaggle notebooks: <https://www.kaggle.com/notebooks>

- **Becoming an AI Generalist**

AI isn't replacing analysts; it's upgrading the ones who know how to use it. Becoming an AI Generalist means using AI as your second brain to accelerate learning, execution, and decision-making.

- Topics
  - What is LLM?
  - Tokens, context length, embeddings
  - Differences between models (GPT vs Claude vs Gemini)
  - Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) – high-level idea
  - Limitations of AI (hallucinations, bias)
  - What is an AI Agent?
  - Start using the following tools for the day-to-day tasks/learnings.
    - ChatGPT
    - Gemini
    - Claude
    - NotebookLM
    - Perplexity
- Learning Resources
  - Track A (Free)
    - [AI Basics for Beginners](#)
    - [Top 5 AI Tools](#)
    - [What is AI Agent?](#)
    - Career in AI Era Podcast with Rishi Seth, Sr Director at Fractal - [Link](#)
    - [Data Analysis using AI Tools | Quadratic](#)
    - YouTube creators: AI Explained, All About AI
  - Track B (Affordable Fees)
    - [AI Toolkit Professionals Course](#)

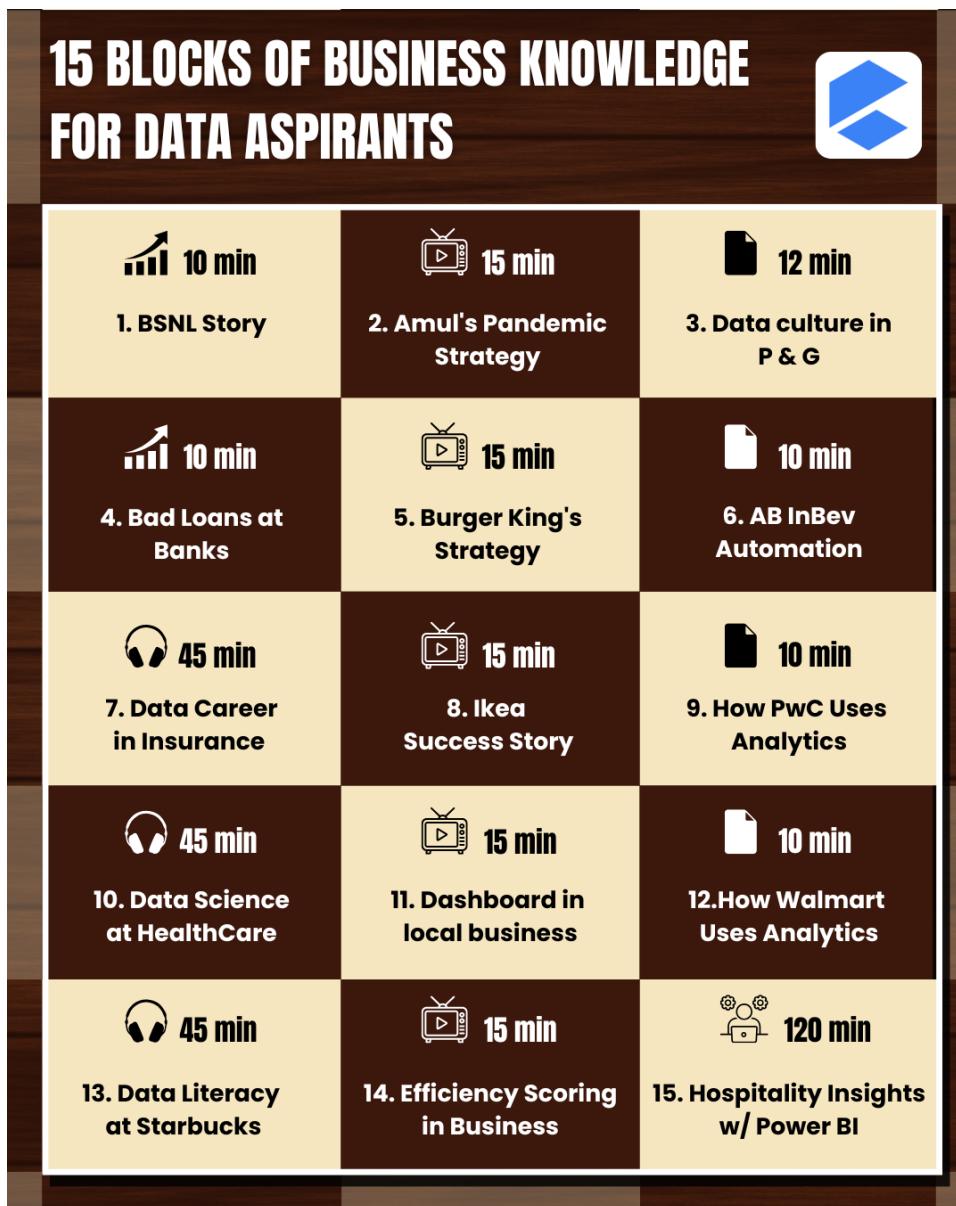
- **Project Management**

- Scrum: <https://scrumtrainingseries.com/>
- Kanban: <https://youtu.be/jf0tlbt9lx0>
- Tools: JIRA, Notion

- **Leveraging Domain Knowledge**

Build domain knowledge to understand how to use business terms along with numbers

## 15 BLOCKS OF BUSINESS KNOWLEDGE FOR DATA ASPIRANTS



 <b>10 min</b> <b>1. BSNL Story</b>	 <b>15 min</b> <b>2. Amul's Pandemic Strategy</b>	 <b>12 min</b> <b>3. Data culture in P &amp; G</b>
 <b>10 min</b> <b>4. Bad Loans at Banks</b>	 <b>15 min</b> <b>5. Burger King's Strategy</b>	 <b>10 min</b> <b>6. AB InBev Automation</b>
 <b>45 min</b> <b>7. Data Career in Insurance</b>	 <b>15 min</b> <b>8. Ikea Success Story</b>	 <b>10 min</b> <b>9. How PwC Uses Analytics</b>
 <b>45 min</b> <b>10. Data Science at HealthCare</b>	 <b>15 min</b> <b>11. Dashboard in local business</b>	 <b>10 min</b> <b>12. How Walmart Uses Analytics</b>
 <b>45 min</b> <b>13. Data Literacy at Starbucks</b>	 <b>15 min</b> <b>14. Efficiency Scoring in Business</b>	 <b>120 min</b> <b>15. Hospitality Insights w/ Power BI</b>

### All Links:

1. BSNL Story -> [Link](#)
2. Amul's pandemic strategy ->[Link](#)
3. Medline in Healthcare -> [Link](#)
4. Bad loans at Banks -> [Link](#)
5. Burger King's Strategy ->[Link](#)
6. AB InBev Automation ->[Link](#)
7. Data Career in Insurance Industry -> [Link](#)
8. Ikea Case Study ->[Link](#)

9. PwC using Analytics -> [Link](#)
10. Data science at health care -> [Link](#)
11. Dashboard in local business -> [Link](#)
12. Walmart Using Power BI -> [Link](#)
13. Swiggy using Microsoft Fabric -> [Link](#)
14. Data Literacy at Starbucks -> [Link](#)
15. Efficiency Scoring in Business -> [Link](#)
16. Hospitality Insights -> [Link](#)

- **Assignment**

- Make a LinkedIn project post with a video presentation.
  - Example post: <https://bit.ly/47WbRG9>  
*(Tag Codebasics, Dhaval Patel and Hemanand Vadivel with the hashtag #daroadmap26 so we can engage to increase your visibility)*
  - Codebasics is promoting winning entries to employers. This way you can get interview calls. We do this in two ways.
    - We have a database of employers hiring for data analyst positions. We send the first 10 or 20 profiles based on their performance.
- Discord: Start solving problems – this way you will be able to adopt to the problem-solving mindset

💡 Insight: Only 20 among 100 aspirants continue further. You be one among them 😊

## Week 13 and 14: Automations + Strategic Collaboration & Critical Thinking

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- **Automations**

- Topics
  - What is AI Automation?
  - Difference between No Code vs Code
  - Tools overview:
    - Power Automate (low/no-code)
    - Zapier
    - n8n

- Make.com
- Automating common analyst tasks:
  - Automating CSV → Database uploads
  - Auto-refreshing dashboards
  - Auto-notifications
  - Recurring report sending automation.
  - Business operations workflow automations.
- Using ChatGPT / Claude for:
  - SQL generation
  - Cleaning data
  - Writing resume bullet points
  - Drafting insights summaries
- Learning Resources
  - Track A (Free)
    - [AI Agent using Zapier](#)
    - [No Code vs Code – AI Agent](#)
    - [Data Analysis using AI Tools | Quadratic](#)
    - [Zapier Automation](#)
    - [Get Started with Power Automate](#)
    - Power Automate – [Microsoft Official Documentation](#)
    - YouTube creators: Nate Herk | AI Automation,
  - Track B (Affordable Fees)
    - [AI Automation for Data Professionals](#) Course

## • **Strategic Collaboration & Critical Thinking**

Modern companies look for analysts who act as strategic partners, connecting ideas, questioning assumptions, suggesting solutions, and driving growth.

To excel in this role, develop critical thinking and collaboration skills. These will help you clarify requirements, find root causes, weigh options, and communicate effective solutions.

- Topics
  - How to think like a business partner, not a task-taker

- How to break down ambiguous problems into clear analytical steps
- How to challenge assumptions respectfully
- How to prioritize what truly matters for the business
- How to evaluate options using structured reasoning
- How to connect data, domain knowledge, and business context
- How to propose actionable solutions, not just insights
- How to communicate decisions with clarity and logic
- Learning Resources
  - Books:
    - Thinking in Bets – Annie Duke
    - Range – David Epstein
    - SuperThinking – Gabriel Weinberg & Lauren McCann
  - Course
    - Coursera – Critical Thinking & Problem Solving

## Week 15 and 16: Interview Prep & Practice

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- **Interview Preparation**

- SQL interview preparation
  - Use this website: <https://datalemur.com/>
  - Also check this YouTube channel:  
<https://www.youtube.com/@techTFQ>
- Power BI and other tech interview preparation
  - Shashank's YouTube Channel: [LearnWidGiggs](#)

- **DA Projects for Interview**

In the video, we have provided 6 solid projects: 3 solid guided projects and 3 un-guided projects.

For each project, you will learn:

- The technical and core skills you will acquire.
- How to effectively include these projects in your resume.
- How to articulate the details of these projects during an interview with a hiring manager.

Link: [https://youtu.be/prPBS6wbYA?si=weY6-Gy-XHKBU\\_nM](https://youtu.be/prPBS6wbYA?si=weY6-Gy-XHKBU_nM)

- **Practice Unguided Projects**

- [Provide Ad Hoc Insights to Management](#)
- [Provide Insights to the Executive Team/ Telecom Domain](#)
- [Provide Insights to Management in Consumer Goods Domain](#)
- [Solve a supply chain problem/ FMCG Domain](#)
- [Provide Insights to Marketing/ F&B Industry](#)
- [PMF Research for Air Purifier Development Using AQI Analytics](#)
- [Insights for EV Launch in India](#)

Explore the latest projects below 

**CLICK HERE** 

- **Job Applications**

- Cold emailing: [https://youtu.be/tD\\_sQSzq6uY](https://youtu.be/tD_sQSzq6uY)
- Job referrals. Use LinkedIn as much as you can!
  - Follow this method to approach professionals:  
<https://bit.ly/3tezRFi>

- **Assignment**

- Participate in more resume project challenges.
  - These challenges help you improve technical skills, soft skills and business understanding.
- (Tag Codebasics, Dhaval Patel and Hemanand Vadivel with the hashtag #daroadmap26 so we can engage to increase your visibility)
- Post your work at least once in 2 weeks on LinkedIn.
  - Example post: <https://bit.ly/3WMTgGK> (Naveen S)
- Make at least two posts per week.
- Make at least two comments per week.
- Discord server participation

 Insight: Only 5-10 among 100 aspirants reach until here and crack a job.  
You be one among them 😊

## Supplementary Learning:

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If you have additional time, consider learning these supplementary learning to stand out in the job market. They not only enhance your current skill set but also open up new career paths.

- **Databricks:**

Databricks is a unified data analytics and engineering platform built on top of Apache Spark. It enables organizations to efficiently process large-scale data, build machine learning models, and collaborate seamlessly across data engineering, data science, and analytics teams. By simplifying complex data workflows and providing an integrated workspace, Databricks accelerates the journey from raw data to actionable insights.

Learning Resources:

<https://youtu.be/P5-A60xmAbw?si=MetOaAuRC7qgR-CC>

<https://youtu.be/761SQ9Hxbic?si=6n2p-9Jx--nnG-CP>

<https://youtu.be/U6ZUKWdfSLY?si=M9OmKgV2lvhjly3B>

- **Microsoft Fabric:**

Microsoft Fabric is a cloud-based analytics platform that brings together a suite of data management and analytics tools into a unified experience. It's designed to simplify how organisations collect, prepare, analyse, and share data insights.

Learning Resources: <https://youtu.be/hwwU8V48g-4?si=B-c3SsgVoSEEyFxp>

- **PL 300 Certification:**

Hiring managers often use certifications to filter candidates. Nowadays, obtaining a certification online is easy, so it's important to choose ones that are more challenging to earn. One such certification is the PL-300 Microsoft Certification for Power BI. This certification is not easily attained and requires a solid level of Power BI skills, meeting the criteria that many hiring managers look for.

Syllabus and learning resources: <https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/credentials/certifications/data-analyst-associate/?practice-assessment-type=certification>

<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/training/courses/pl-300t00>

- **Make Your Dashboard Look Unique:**

Understanding dashboard design can be tricky, but with the right guidance, transforming a simple dashboard into something stunning is entirely achievable. Check out this video to effortlessly enhance your design skills.  
<https://codebasics.io/playback/how-to-transform-your-dashboards-from-simple-to-stunning>

- **Story Telling with Data:**

One of the core responsibilities of a data analyst is to convey insights from data to non-technical stakeholders. Data analysis involves more than just presenting visuals; it's about deriving insights from the data and representing them with supporting visuals. Check out this book to learn [storytelling with data](#).

Also, check out our [resource page](#) to access free and content-rich resources. Follow us on our [WhatsApp channel](#) to get updates on resources published every week.

## How can I access guided learning all in one place with practical job assistance?

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If you need guided learning with high-quality learning resources along with practical job assistance, then check this affordable data analyst bootcamp by Codebasics:  
<https://codebasics.io/bootcamps/data-analytics-bootcamp-with-practical-job-assistance>

The bootcamp will help you save time compared to free learning resources. Also, it will provide job, interview assistance, along with 2 virtual internships 💡 💬

## Tips for effective learning

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- **Spend less time-consuming information, more time in**

- Digesting
- Implementing
- Sharing

- **Group learning**

- Use **partner-and-group-finder** channel on codebasics discord server for group study and hold each other accountable for the progress of your study plan. Here is the Discord server link: [Discord](#)

## Final Checklist/ Concluding Actions Checklist:

The more boxes you tick, the closer you get to opening the door to your first data analyst job! 🎉

DATA ANALYST ASPIRANT CHECKLIST 2026		
EXCEL	POWER BI	SQL
<input type="checkbox"/> LOOK UPS <input type="checkbox"/> PIVOT TABLE <input type="checkbox"/> POWER QUERY <input type="checkbox"/> BASIC MATH & STATS	<input type="checkbox"/> POWER QUERY <input type="checkbox"/> DAX & DATA MODELING <input type="checkbox"/> DASHBOARD DESIGN <input type="checkbox"/> PBI SERVICE	<input type="checkbox"/> BIG 6 STATEMENTS <input type="checkbox"/> JOINS, CTEs, WINDOW <input type="checkbox"/> STORED PROCEDURES <input type="checkbox"/> DATA QUALITY CHECKS
PYTHON	DATA ENGINEERING BASICS	AI GENERALIST
<input type="checkbox"/> PANDAS (DF BASICS) <input type="checkbox"/> FILE HANDLING <input type="checkbox"/> AUTOMATIONS (EMAILS) <input type="checkbox"/> ERROR HANDLING	<input type="checkbox"/> FILE TYPES <input type="checkbox"/> ETL VS ELT <input type="checkbox"/> PIPELINES (BRONZE → SILVER → GOLD) <input type="checkbox"/> BASIC MATH & STATS	<input type="checkbox"/> USING CHATGPT / CLAUDE / GEMINI <input type="checkbox"/> AI FOR SQL, PYTHON, DAX <input type="checkbox"/> INSIGHT SUMMARIES VIA AI <input type="checkbox"/> RESEARCH & LEARNING WITH AI
AI AUTOMATION	BUSINESS ACUMEN	COMMUNICATION
<input type="checkbox"/> POWER AUTOMATE BASICS <input type="checkbox"/> N8N WORKFLOWS <input type="checkbox"/> ZAPIER FLOWS <input type="checkbox"/> REPORTING & DATA AUTOMATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> REVENUE, PROFIT, COSTS <input type="checkbox"/> MARKET SHARE <input type="checkbox"/> DOMAIN BASICS (ANY 2) <input type="checkbox"/> FINANCE/SALES METRICS	<input type="checkbox"/> PRESENT INSIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> STAKEHOLDER MANAGEMENT <input type="checkbox"/> STORYTELLING <input type="checkbox"/> WRITE PROFESSIONAL EMAILS
RESUME	LINKEDIN	PORTFOLIO
<input type="checkbox"/> ATS CHECKED <input type="checkbox"/> TAILORED FOR EACH JD <input type="checkbox"/> STAR METHOD <input type="checkbox"/> PORTFOLIO LINK	<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD DP + BANNER <input type="checkbox"/> 10 ENDORSED SKILLS <input type="checkbox"/> 3 RECOMMENDATIONS <input type="checkbox"/> 2 PROOF-OF-WORK POSTS	<input type="checkbox"/> 4+ BUSINESS PROJECTS <input type="checkbox"/> 1 PER TOOL (EXCEL/BI/SQL/PYTHON) <input type="checkbox"/> 1 AUTOMATION PROJECT <input type="checkbox"/> VIDEO PRESENTATION

## Other Relevant Resources

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How to land job as a fresher (scientific approach): <https://bit.ly/41xuZYv>

## Summary

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### Prepare your Mind & Body

1. Accept that you are entering a competitive field
2. Train to use internet as your second brain
3. Disengage from "Victim" mindset people
4. Engage with "Hero" mindset people
5. Create a consistent sleep cycle
6. Eat mindfully, move regularly
7. Read any spiritual book

### Acquire Skills - Get Job Ready

8. Do thorough research on market condition / resources
9. Filter the noise and learn from right resources
10. Practice until you get it in muscle memory
11. Understand domains and functions
12. Do multiple unguided projects
13. Find a learning community

### Show proof of work & Land a Job

14. Get your LinkedIn profile right
15. Create a resume with 90+ ATS
16. Build a project portfolio website
17. Keep doing open source projects
18. Keep posting your work on LinkedIn
19. Participate in offline networking sessions
20. Reach out to people on LinkedIn w/ proof of work
21. Apply sensibly - treat each JD as a question paper

All the best! 

