

Self-assessment



7/7 questions correct

Quiz passed!

[Continue Course \(/learn/cs-tech-interview/lecture/i078o/when-i-struggled-a-first-technical-phone-interview\)](/learn/cs-tech-interview/lecture/i078o/when-i-struggled-a-first-technical-phone-interview)

[Back to Week 2 \(/learn/cs-tech-interview/home/week/2\)](/learn/cs-tech-interview/home/week/2)



1.

Now that you have seen some examples of good and bad technical phone interviews, you will use this quiz to self-assess your own "interview" that you recorded at the beginning of this week. Almost all of the questions on this quiz are reflective questions (i.e. no right or wrong answer), so the point of this quiz is not to "pass." As long as you answer all the questions you will pass.

The value of this quiz is in your honest assessment of what you did well and where your areas for improvement lie. After this quiz, we want you to practice, focusing specifically on those areas you feel you are weakest in, and at the end of the week you'll do another mock technical phone interview to assess your own improvement. Your goal is to be able to honestly be able to answer more of these self assessment questions with a "yes" the next time.

So let's dive in with your first self-assessment question.

The problem you faced was purposefully vague and under-specified. Did you ask clarifying questions (to your fictional interviewer) to help ensure that you were solving the problem the interviewer intended? We realize you would have had to make up the "interviewer's" responses, but what we're wondering here is if it occurred to you to ask rather than simply make assumptions.



Yes, I asked several clarifying questions, and feel that they were sufficient to narrow down the specific problem I was supposed to solve.



Sort of. I might have asked a few, or I thought about asking them, but I feel I could have asked more.

It's great that you saw the potential ambiguities in the problem you were asked to solve. Take some time to think back on other questions you might have asked.

- ☐ No, I did not ask any. Maybe it didn't occur to me that I should do this, or maybe I couldn't think of what to ask.
-

 2.

Did you work through an example before you started coding to ensure and communicate to your interviewer that you understood the question correctly?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ Sort of. I thought about it, but I didn't actually do it.

It's great that it occurred to you. Don't be shy about actually working through the example with the interviewer. They want to see this careful thinking about the problem.

- ☐ No
-

 3.

Did you talk through your process continually while you were writing your code so that there were no long periods of silence and the "interviewer" could know your thought process?

- ☒ Yes

Great job! Keep it up!

- ☐ Sort of, but I could have said more
- ☐ No, not really
-



4.

Did you finish your coding task by tracing through an example to verify that your solution actually works?



Yes



I more or less verified my solution, but maybe not with an example or not completely enough.



Choosing a specific example will help you ground your verification, and show the interviewer that you know how to select appropriate test cases to verify your code with.



No, I didn't verify my code after I finished writing it



5.

Did you find and correct your mistakes as you wrote your code?



Yes, I found and corrected my mistakes successfully



Great! That's an important interview skill



No, because I didn't make any (or at least I don't think I did...)



I'm not sure because I'm not sure what the right answer is



No, I know I made errors, but I didn't see them and/or correct them



6.

Overall, how well do you feel this portion of your "technical phone interview" went?



Great! There's not much I could have done better.



Okay. I did some things well, but I could improve in some areas.



Great. We hope that we've given you ideas about what to practice and how to improve. Practice up, because you'll get a chance to repeat this exercise at the end of the week.

☐ Not very well. I have a lot to work on.

7.

What do you feel you most need to practice/improve on for the live coding portion of the technical phone interview? What are you most nervous about?

I think a lot when I have been asked a question, but I guess I don't speak that thought well out there. Also I don't write down the examples that I am thinking. Now I understand that It's so much better to write and speak about it without hesitating no matter I am right or wrong.

Thank you for your response.

It's normal to be nervous. We hope that you now have a good idea of how to improve your skills so that you'll ace this part of the technical phone interview. Keep practicing and you'll have an opportunity to repeat this exercise at the end of the week.

