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4 points (75% upvoted)shortlink: <https://redd.it/2fcv83>

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☐ remember me [reset password](#)**Amazon Phone Interview** (self.cscareerquestions)4 submitted 2 years ago by [theBaywatchKid](#)

Hi all, Im currently working as a software dev in a startup, but Amazon have got in contact with me and I have a phone interview Friday with them. What should I be preparing for this? They've said I might need internet connection so I may be asked to use some online code editing tools im guessing.

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sorted by: **best**[-] [cjt09](#) 6 points 2 years ago<https://sites.google.com/site/steveyegge2/five-essential-phone-screen-questions>

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[-] [theBaywatchKid](#) [S] 1 point 2 years ago

Thank you, much appreciated!

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[-] [\[deleted\]](#) 4 points 2 years ago

Understand how linked lists, arrays, hash tables, sets, binary trees, and tries work in the language you're most comfortable with. Know how to do tree/graph traversals and at least 1 array sorting algorithm. Make sure you understand Big O notation and how to determine runtime efficiency.

During the interview: if you don't understand something, say so. If you're confused or stuck, speak up. A lot of times, it's not about knowing the answer to the problem; it's more about how you attack the problem.

If you make it past the phone screen, I recommend buying a copy of Cracking the Coding Interview. That was the best possible prep for me when preparing for my Amazon interview.

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WELCOME one and all, to </r/cscareerquestions>! Here we

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[–] [favors_the_bold](#) 3 points 2 years ago

Great tips, which sorting algorithm would you recommend to know well ?

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[–] [\[deleted\]](#) 6 points 2 years ago

I'd say quick sort and merge sort would be good to understand.

I guess I should also add that understanding the best/worst/average time AND space complexity of each is good.

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[–] [cjt09](#) 4 points 2 years ago

I'd go further, you *need* to know the time/space complexities of those algorithms. I'd also say it's well worth knowing radix sort and heap sort.

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[–] [\[deleted\]](#) 1 point 2 years ago

Oh yeah, heaps are another good data structure to understand as well.

I've never dealt with radix or heap sort on either side of the interviewing table, but I agree that it's worth at least knowing what they are so you don't get caught with your pants down.

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[–] [LLJKCicero](#) [Android Developer](#) 1 point 2 years ago

Heaps are useful if the question involves some kind of priority queue.

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[–] [LLJKCicero](#) [Android Developer](#) 1 point 2 years ago

Yeah, quick sort and merge sort, and at least one of [insertion/selection/bubble] sort.

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[–] [TashanValiant](#) 2 points 2 years ago

Already some good suggestions but apart from understanding them know *when* they are useful/bad.

For instance, when is it better to prefer insertion sort over merge or even quick sort?

Also the philosophies behind the algorithms. Merge sort is a divide and conquer algorithm. Many many many other algorithms have this same style. It also is a

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tl;dr - darker colors == more posting experience here.

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- **Sunday:** Big 4
- **Monday:** Interviews
- **Tuesday:** Resumes
- **Wednesday:** Big 4
- **Thursday:** Interviews
- **Friday:** Special Rant Thread

great introduction/talking point for recursion.

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[–] [theBaywatchKid](#) [S] 1 point 2 years ago

Thank you, this is exactly what i wanted!

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[–] [s32](#) Software Engineer 3 points 2 years ago

You will need an internet connection, as you'll be coding during the phone screen.

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[–] [termd](#) 3 points 2 years ago

Make sure that you have a place with good phone reception and is quiet. That was a problem for me during my phone interviews. My normal sitting spot only got 1 bar so I couldn't hear and moved near a window, but outside there was a crew cutting grass.

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[–] [I_Write_Good](#) Software Engineer 1 point 2 years ago

Strong knowledge of data types (trees, heaps, hash maps/tables, etc) and algorithms

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[–] [nono___](#) 1 point 2 years ago

On Indeed, Amazon has 1500 positions open for C++ in Seattle. Do they really need these many people, or are they just trying to put pressure on lawmakers to raise caps through fake job postings ?

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[–] [\[deleted\]](#) 8 points 2 years ago

Every team at Amazon is *a/ways* hiring. Most teams have way more work than they can accomplish with the people already on board. Internal poaching is huge (every internal tech talk always includes a plug telling people to transfer).

The big thing is that JeffB wants to get Amazon into everything (payments, phones, SSO, etc), and the company needs more people to make everything happen.

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[–] [nono___](#) 1 point 2 years ago

Thanks for clearing the misconception.

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[–] [dkdl](#) 2 points 2 years ago

- **Saturday:** Resumes

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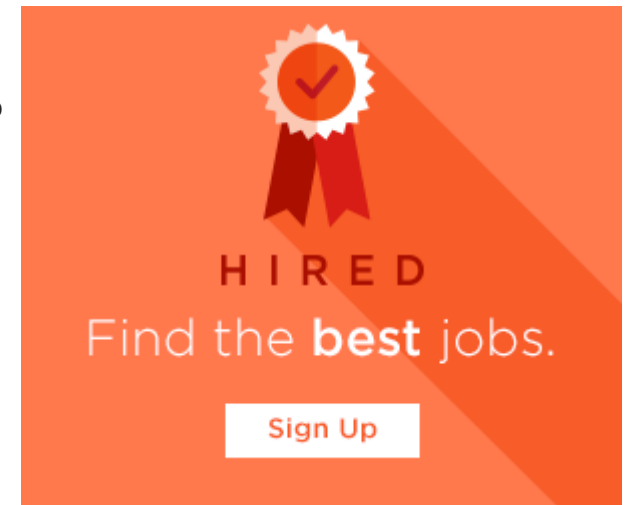
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a community for 5 years

Amazon has very high employee turnover rates- if you visit, you'll see that most software engineers have been there at most 1-2 years, so they have to keep hiring new ones to replace the old. Not that many people turn down Amazon, so it seems to work for them

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