

INTERVIEW PREP REALITY CHECK

Your Best Example Might Not Look "Technical"

Stop dismissing the stories that actually set you apart.

I was prepping someone for behavioral interviews yesterday.

THE QUESTION

"Tell me about a time you adapted your communication style for a different audience."

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I have an example, but I don't think it counts...

It's not really technical.

— My client, second-guessing themselves

THEIR EXAMPLE

Training a coworker **on the autism spectrum** at a previous job to complete a specific task.

My response:
"That's one of the best examples I've heard."

WHAT MOST CANDIDATES THINK

What this question means:

- Presenting your project to the marketing team
- Explaining code to your non-technical manager
- "Dumbing down" concepts for executives
- Your senior design presentation to a panel

These are fine. But they're also... expected.

The Difference

TYPICAL EXAMPLE

"I presented technical information simply to a non-technical audience."

THIS EXAMPLE

"I observed how someone processes information differently and adapted my entire approach to meet them where they are."

WHAT THIS ACTUALLY SHOWS

Real communication competency.



Real Empathy
Not performative



Genuine Observation
How does THIS person learn?



Adapting Without
Condescension
Helping without talking down



Real-Time Adjustment
Responding to their needs



Patience & Care
Caring about THEIR outcome



Understanding Different Minds
Not everyone processes the same

"I can explain technical things simply."

Communication is about connecting
with anyone—
regardless of how they **process**
information.

This example showed MORE competency than the typical "I presented to a non-technical panel."

Stop dismissing your experiences.

The example you think is "too small" or "not technical enough"?

It might be the one that **sets you apart**.

What "unconventional" example have you been hesitant to use?

Drop it in the comments—I'll tell you if it works. 

Save this for your next interview prep session.

 Repost

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