

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."*

||

*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.



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