

# Excel Mock Interview Transcript

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## === Warm-up ===

Q1: Can you briefly introduce yourself?

A1: I'm Vinod Polinati, a recent B.Tech graduate in AI & Data Science with hands-on experience in applied machine learning, LLMs, and data analytics. At NRSC-ISRO, I built a fully local RAG system using Mistral 7B, LangChain, and FAISS, improving retrieval speed by 40% and showcasing efficient, cloud-free LLM deployment. At Aegion Dynamic, I developed a CNN + ILP model for warehouse optimization, reducing packaging waste by 25%. My projects, including an AI research agent and a GCP-powered Uber analytics dashboard, reflect my ability to engineer impactful, scalable solutions. I'm eager to contribute my skills and enthusiasm to a forward-thinking team.

Q2: How comfortable are you with using Excel on a daily basis?

A2: 10

Q3: What kinds of Excel tasks do you typically perform?

A3: csv , dashboard

## === Technical Interview ===

Q1: How would you use a VLOOKUP function in Excel?

A1: Imao

Evaluation: Score: 0/10

Rating: This answer demonstrates a complete lack of understanding of the VLOOKUP function and its application in Excel. It's not even an attempt to provide a solution or explanation. A VLOOKUP function is a fundamental concept in Excel, and a candidate should be able to provide a clear and concise explanation of how to use it. This response suggests that the candidate is unprepared and lacks basic knowledge of Excel functions.

Q2: Explain the difference between absolute and relative cell references.

A2: lol

Evaluation: Score: 0/10

Rating: This candidate's answer is completely unrelated to the question and demonstrates a lack of understanding of even the most basic Excel concepts. A laugh-out-loud (LOL) response is not a suitable answer to a technical question, and it raises significant concerns about the candidate's ability to think critically and communicate effectively in a professional setting.

Q3: How do pivot tables help in data analysis?

A3: lol

Evaluation: Score: 0/10

This candidate's answer is extremely unprofessional and lacking in substance. A pivot table is a powerful tool in Excel that helps in data analysis by allowing users to summarize and analyze large datasets from multiple angles. The candidate's response of "lol" indicates a lack of understanding of the concept and a dismissive attitude towards the question.

As an interviewer, I would expect a candidate to demonstrate a basic understanding of the tool and its applications, even if they don't have extensive experience with it. This answer suggests that the candidate may not be taking the interview seriously or may not be familiar with the basics of Excel.

I would not consider this candidate further in the interview process due to their unprofessional response.

Q4: Can you describe how to use conditional formatting effectively?

A4: idk

Evaluation: I would give this candidate a score of 0 out of 10.

The reason for the score is that the candidate's answer is essentially a non-response. "idk" is an abbreviation for "I don't know," which indicates a lack of knowledge or understanding of the topic. This is a critical skill in Excel, as conditional formatting is a fundamental feature that is widely used in data analysis and visualization.

A candidate who is interviewing for an Excel-related position should have a basic understanding of conditional formatting and its applications. Even if the candidate is not an expert, they should be able to provide a general idea of how to use it effectively.

In this case, the candidate's answer suggests that they may not have the necessary skills or

knowledge to perform tasks that require conditional formatting, which is a major concern for the position.

Q5: What is the purpose of using named ranges in Excel?

A5: you say

Evaluation: I would give this candidate a score of 0 out of 10.

The candidate's answer is incomplete and does not provide any insight into their knowledge of named ranges in Excel. A good answer to this question should provide a clear explanation of the purpose and benefits of using named ranges, such as:

- Improved readability and maintainability of formulas and references
- Enhanced collaboration and documentation
- Simplified formula editing and debugging
- Reduced errors caused by typos or incorrect references

The candidate's response of "you say" suggests a lack of understanding or preparation for the question, and does not demonstrate any relevant knowledge or skills in Excel.

Q6: How do you create a simple formula in Excel?

A6: broowoh

Evaluation: Score: 0/10

Rating: This answer fails to demonstrate any understanding of the Excel functionality or the task asked. The candidate appears to have provided a nonsensical response, which is not relevant to the question about creating a simple formula in Excel. In a real-world scenario, this answer would be considered unacceptable and would likely disqualify the candidate from moving forward in the interview process.

Q7: What is the difference between SUM and SUMPRODUCT functions?

A7: idk man

Evaluation: I'd give this candidate a score of 0 out of 10.

Unfortunately, the candidate's answer is completely unhelpful and does not demonstrate any understanding of the Excel functions. The phrase "idk man" indicates a lack of knowledge and a lack of effort to provide a meaningful answer. In a real-world interview, this kind of response would be a

major red flag, as it suggests that the candidate is not prepared to tackle even the most basic questions about Excel.

In a professional setting, it's essential to be able to explain complex concepts and functions, even if they're not familiar with them. Providing a clear and concise answer, even if it's "I'm not sure, but I can look it up" or "That's a good question, let me give it a try," would be a much better response than simply admitting ignorance.

Q8: How do you use Excel's built-in functions to analyze data?

A8: you say

Evaluation: Score: 0/10

This candidate's answer is very brief and does not provide any substantial information about how they use Excel's built-in functions to analyze data. The response is incomplete and does not demonstrate any understanding of Excel functions.

A good answer would have included examples of Excel functions such as AVERAGE, SUM, COUNT, IF, VLOOKUP, INDEX/MATCH, or pivot tables, and explain how these functions are used to analyze data. The candidate should also be able to explain the benefits of using these functions and provide a specific example from their experience.

In a real-world scenario, this type of answer would be unacceptable, and it would raise concerns about the candidate's ability to analyze data using Excel.

Q9: What is the best way to organize data in Excel?

A9: sybau

Evaluation: Score: 0/10

Rating: The candidate's answer, "sybau", does not provide any relevant information regarding the organization of data in Excel. It appears to be a random or nonsensical response, which does not demonstrate any understanding of Excel or data organization. In a real-world interview, this type of answer would be a major red flag and would likely disqualify the candidate from moving forward in the process.

Q10: How do you create a simple chart in Excel?

A10: Imaow

Evaluation: Score: 0/10

Rating: The candidate's response is completely unrelated to the question asked. The expected response should involve explaining the steps to create a simple chart in Excel, which typically involves selecting data, going to the "Insert" tab, clicking on the chart button, and choosing a chart type. The candidate's answer, a laugh-out-loud message ("lmaow"), does not demonstrate any understanding of Excel or the ability to perform basic tasks in the software. This response suggests a lack of preparation and a poor fit for the position.

Q11: What is the best way to use Excel's built-in functions to analyze data?

A11: hehehehe

Evaluation: Score: 0/10

This candidate's answer is completely unresponsive to the question. They seem to be making a laughing sound with nonsensical repetition of "hehehehe," which doesn't provide any clues about their knowledge or understanding of Excel or its functions. This kind of response suggests a lack of preparation, a lack of confidence, or even a prankster personality that would make them unsuitable for a professional interview.

Q12: How do you create a simple chart in Excel?

A12: idk you od it for me

Evaluation: Score: 0/10

Rating: This response demonstrates a complete lack of understanding of the question and the subject matter. The candidate shows no willingness to learn or demonstrate their knowledge of Excel. The answer is not only incorrect but also unprofessional and dismissive of the opportunity to showcase their skills. In a real-world scenario, this kind of response would raise significant concerns about the candidate's ability to learn and perform tasks, let alone work independently.

### === Final Feedback ===

**\*\*Candidate's Performance:\*\***

**\*\*Overall Impression:\*\*** The candidate's performance in this mock interview session is extremely concerning. They demonstrated a complete lack of understanding and knowledge of basic Excel functions and concepts. Their responses were often unprofessional, dismissive, and nonsensical,

raising significant concerns about their ability to learn, perform tasks, and work independently.

**\*\*Strengths:\*\*** Unfortunately, there are no notable strengths in the candidate's performance. They failed to demonstrate any understanding of the topics discussed, and their responses were consistently unhelpful and unprofessional.

**\*\*Weaknesses:\*\***

1. **\*\*Lack of knowledge and understanding:\*\*** The candidate demonstrated a fundamental lack of knowledge and understanding of basic Excel functions and concepts, such as VLOOKUP, conditional formatting, named ranges, and pivot tables.
2. **\*\*Unprofessional behavior:\*\*** Many of the candidate's responses were unprofessional, dismissive, and nonsensical, raising concerns about their ability to communicate effectively in a professional setting.
3. **\*\*Lack of critical thinking and problem-solving skills:\*\*** The candidate failed to demonstrate any critical thinking or problem-solving skills, and their responses often consisted of nonsensical phrases or requests for someone else to perform the task.
4. **\*\*Inability to learn and perform tasks:\*\*** The candidate showed no willingness to learn or demonstrate their knowledge of Excel, raising significant concerns about their ability to learn and perform tasks independently.

**\*\*Recommendation:\*\*** Based on the candidate's performance, it is recommended that they not be considered for the position. Their lack of knowledge, unprofessional behavior, and inability to learn and perform tasks make them unsuitable for a position that requires proficiency in Excel.