

Linked list intersect

Ah, you're talking about skipA and skipB from the other approach (the length-difference method). Let me explain super simply.

✔ What is skipA and skipB?

When you have two linked lists of different lengths, you can calculate how many extra nodes are in one list before the intersection.

- skipA = how many nodes List A has before the intersection
- skipB = how many nodes List B has before the intersection

✔ Example

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List A: 4 1 8 4 5
List B: 5 6 1 8 4 5

Let's count:

- List A length = 5
- List B length = 6
- Common part (after intersection at 8) = 3 nodes (8 4 5)

So:

- skipA = 5 - 3 = 2 nodes (4 1)
- skipB = 6 - 3 = 3 nodes (5 6 1)

So before the intersection,

- List A has 2 extra nodes
- List B has 3 extra nodes

✔ How do we use skipA and skipB?

1. Find lengths lenA and lenB
2. Calculate difference d = |lenA - lenB|
3. Move the longer list pointer ahead by d steps

- If List B is longer by 1, move pB 1 step forward first

4. Then move both pointers together until they meet

✔ Applying to this example

- lenA = 5
- lenB = 6
- difference = 1

So move pB 1 step ahead first (skip 5 in List B).

Now both have equal remaining length →

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pA 4

pB 6

Move step by step → they will meet at 8.

✔ TL;DR

- skipA = number of extra nodes in List A before intersection
- skipB = number of extra nodes in List B before intersection
- Helps us align both lists to the same remaining length before walking together.

Would you like me to:

- ✔ Draw a simple diagram showing skipA/skipB visually?
- ✔ Or explain again using a short story?