Data Engineer, Product Analytics

Initial Interview Guide

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Welcome to your preparation guide for your interview at Meta! This guide will take you approximately 15 minutes to review. Use the table of contents below to quickly jump to the section you are looking for. Whether you're taking your initial screen or your full loop interview, our Data Engineering leaders and recruiters put together this guide so you know what to expect and how to prepare. We recognize that interviewing can be stressful, so we hope this guide provides the information and resources you need. Remember, your recruiter is there to support you, so please reach out to them with any questions.

Accommodations process

Meta is committed to providing reasonable support (called accommodations) in our recruiting processes for qualified candidates with disabilities, physical conditions, mental health conditions, neurodivergence, sincerely held religious beliefs, pregnancy, childbirth, or related

medical conditions, as required by law. If you need assistance or require an accommodation, reach out via the [Accommodations request form.](#)

Team introduction

As a Data Engineer at Meta, you will shape the future of people-facing and business-facing products we build across our entire family of applications.

In this role, you will collaborate with engineers, product managers, and data scientists to understand data needs, representing key data insights in a meaningful way. You will design, build and launch new data models and visualizations in production, leveraging common development toolkits. Additionally, you will independently design, build and launch new data extraction, transformation, and loading processes in production, mentoring others around efficient queries.

Data engineers must have strong product awareness, strategic thinking, and prioritization skills, balancing daily support with long-term projects.

By joining Meta, you will become part of a world-class data engineering community dedicated to skill development and career growth in data engineering and beyond.

Interview process overview

This guide will explain what to expect during your interviews with Meta. As part of your interview, you will have the opportunity to meet with peers, cross-functional partners, and other leaders at Meta. Your recruiter will be your guide throughout the process and aim to adequately prepare you to bring your best self to your interview.

What will your interview process be?

Your initial screen will be a **60-minute** Zoom interview, during which you'll share your solutions on your computer via CoderPad, an online code-sharing interface. Prior to your interview, please familiarize yourself with the CoderPad interface; you can check out **CoderPad's Tips and Tricks** as you're preparing. Please ensure you join your custom CoderPad link a few minutes before your interview (our Coordination team will send you this link upon confirmation of your interview date / time). Please also make sure that you have strong phone and internet connectivity in a quiet zone.

Your conversation our interviewer will be divided into the following:

- **Introduction** - 5 minutes

- **SQL screen** - 25 minutes

- **Python screen** - 25 minutes

- **Questions and closing** - 5 minutes

Keep in mind throughout your prep that speed and efficiency are important. Practice with time constraints while you're working through the SQL and coding questions so that you are prepared for both your SQL and coding screens during your interview.

Video Conference interview best practices

- Make sure you're in a quiet environment.

- Double check that you have a reliable internet/phone connection.

- It's okay to ask the person you're speaking with to speak slowly if you can't catch what they're saying.

- You'll need a laptop with a webcam, speaker, and mic. We recommend using a headset or headphones with a mic for better quality audio, but this is optional.

- While we embrace the usage of advanced tooling in our day-to-day work to build the future of social connection, we ask that you not use any unauthorized outside assistance during interviews. Throughout the interview process you may be asked to share your screen via Zoom. Here you can find guidance on how this works. Additionally, we ask that you disable and not use filters during your interview. This will help us get an understanding of how you approach problem-solving and coding independently. Outside assistance includes, but is not limited to, consulting external resources, seeing help from others, or using AI tools, like ChatGPT.

  - For your interview, ensure Zoom screen sharing is enabled in advance, as setup may require a few minutes. Here's how: Enable Zoom screen share.

  - A filter is considered any tool/feature that applies visual effects to your video feed, including virtual/blurred background.

Interview Dress Code

As you're probably aware, we promote a casual environment at Meta so that everyone can be their authentic selves. Formal dress is not required (jeans are definitely ok!). Dress comfortably. We care about what you can do, not what you wear.

SQL Screen

What can you expect?

Your SQL screen will be 25 minutes, where you'll have an opportunity to work through several questions. The purpose of this screen is to evaluate your understanding of fundamental SQL concepts. We will ask you to write a series of SQL queries using a PostgreSQL database, yet knowing standard ANSI SQL is sufficient for the interview. Working with a business-related schema and dataset, we will ask you to write SQL to help answer various business questions.

What do we look for?

The Appendix / Resources section contains links to practice SQL interview question samples. Be prepared to cover fundamental SQL concepts:

- Joins (inner, left / right outer, full outer, cross)

- UNION vs. UNION ALL

- Correlated subqueries

- Aggregations

- "Where" vs. "having"

- Case statements

- Filters

- Groupings

- Rankings

- Verifying results and taking care of exceptions and NULL handling

Python Screen

What can you expect?

The Python coding screen will be 25 minutes, during which you'll have an opportunity to work through several questions. We recommend practicing the coding interview question samples listed in links in the Appendix / Resources section.

What do we look for?

You will be tested on your ability to develop an algorithm that solves the problem and passes multiple test cases. These problems will require an understanding of:

- Common data structures, such as: lists, dictionaries, sets, strings and objects.

- Algorithmic approaches, but do not require familiarity with specific algorithms (like Dijkstra's) or advanced techniques (such as dynamic programming).

Tips for your interview

In addition to reviewing the above information, these tips may be helpful as you prepare:

- **Have a clear picture first and think out loud.** ==Briefly describe your planned approach to the interviewer first==. Jumping straight into coding without having a clear idea on what you want to do, or changing your mind halfway through, could slow you down. It helps your interviewer follow along and learn about your problem-solving skills. They will want to understand why you're making certain decisions. (For example: Why subqueries instead of joins?)

- ==**Don't worry about things like typos, syntax, etc**==. Some people have the right code sitting there, but they take another minute or two going over everything manually trying to check if it's all correct. Feel free to hit "run" to see what error messages come up. If you aren't sure about syntax, just ask the interviewer: "What's the syntax to check if an element is in a list again?"

- **Optimization.** You should ==first try to come up with the correct solution==. If it is suboptimal, your

interviewer will ask you to optimize it.

- ==**Be open.** Interviewers are asking questions that are not meant to stump you, but rather they're meant to get to know your skills and gauge how in-depth your knowledge is==. It's OK not to know something. Communicate openly with the interviewer, approaching questions as a chance to collaborate with them.

- **Listen for hints.** Interviewers might ask questions such as, "Are you sure you want to use a loop there?" This gives you an opportunity to consider alternatives to how to solve the problem, and to demonstrate that you can learn on the spot and implement feedback.

- **Questions.** You'll most likely have some time at the end for questions for your interviewer. Some people find it easier to come up with a few questions in advance rather than thinking of them on the spot.

Final tips for your interview

- **Be yourself.** This means being open and honest about your successes and ways you've improved throughout your career. Also, be sure to call out how you have specifically added value to your team or projects you've contributed to. We value teamwork and what each individual member brings to the table.

- **Carefully review and familiarize yourself with the job description and perform research on Meta and the role.** Be prepared to answer why you are interested in this specific role and in working at Meta.

- **Please take the time to review our mission statement and core values.** These values influence how we work together to fulfill our mission to build the future of human connection and the technology that makes it possible. We also encourage you to take time using our technologies such as Facebook, Instagram, Messenger, and WhatsApp.

- **One important piece of advice for your interviews: it's ok if you don't know!** No one who works at Meta is an expert in all things, and we don't look for perfection in the people we interview. If you aren't sure of something during your interview, you're encouraged to ask clarifying questions and be upfront if there are topics that you have less experience with.

- **Prepare thoughtful questions for the interviewer(s).** Your interviewer may challenge your ideas, and you should be ready to speak not only to what you recommend or have experienced but the why as well. It is important to think outside the box and to approach problems from creative and different perspectives.

Post interview – What to expect

You can expect your recruiter to provide a specific timeline or updates along the way. Your recruiter will inform you of next steps after your interview as soon as they are available. Feel free to follow up with them if you have not heard within a week of your interviews.

Appendix / Resources

Below is a curated list of resources to get started and help you prepare.

SQL Prep Resources

- [PostgreSQL Exercises](#)
- [https://sqlzoo.net/](#)
- [SQL Course](#)
- [Programmer Interview SQL Practice Database](#)
- [Mode Analytics SQL Tutorials](#)
- [SQL Tutorial](#)

Coding Prep Resources

- [HackerRank](#)
- [CodingBat](#)
- [LeetCode](#)
- [Python for Everyone Course](#)
- [Python Data Structures Course](#)

Meta resources

- [About Meta](#) website
- [Meta Newsroom](#) website
- [Meta Careers](#) website and [Meta Careers for Interns & New Graduates](#)
- [Culture at Meta](#) website
- [Meta employee benefits](#) website
- [Interviewing at Meta: The keys to success](#) blog

Update personal information, track interview progress, and send thank you notes.

At any time during the interview process, you can track your progress, send thank-you notes and update your personal information all via the [Career Profile](#). If you do not receive a link from recruiting, you may create one.

Thank you for taking the time to review this guide!

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