

Technical Interview Tips

Technical interviews vary by company. You can research how an employer does technical interviews by:

- Asking what to expect next at the end of your first interview.
- Checking the employer's web site (for example [Google Interview Tips](#)).
- Check [Glassdoor.com](#), which offers many job/employer-specific interview questions.
- Reach out to connections and alumni using LinkedIn and LinkedIn/Alumni.

It is a good idea to think about a few things as you prepare:

- *What problems have you solved in your coursework and in internships or independent projects?* This will help you be ready to talk through examples of how you approach a new assignment.
- *What language are you strongest in?* Many employers will give you the option to use the language you know best for sample coding exercises.
- *What kinds of problems does the employer solve in their business?* Focus on those areas as you think about the kinds of problems they might ask you about.

Depending on the company, there can be a variety of approaches used in the technical interview. These might include any of the following:

- **A consulting discussion** – the interviewer poses a question to see how you think. It is a great idea to ask clarifying questions, and to talk through your thought process. They want to learn how you take in problems and how you approach coming to a solution.
- **A programming test** – the interviewer gives you a specific programming problem, and you work through a rough algorithm and then code it using a tool like [www.codepad.com](#), or a white board.
- **Past experience** - In-depth discussions of projects you've worked on to see how you approach design, coding, testing, quality, roadblocks, and collaboration.
- **A pair-programming session** – This allows you to work with another person to see how you work and interact with others.

Remember to ask questions as the interview progresses, this dialogue will help the interviewer see that you are interested in the work, the employer and that you are engaged. It is a strength, not a weakness!

FINAL TIPS

- There are no shortcuts: Practice a lot.
- Be ready for questions related to what you have on your resume.
- Over-communication is better than not communicating. They want to know how you problem solve.
- It's okay to ask questions! Focus on clarifying questions or asking for context

RESOURCES

Tutorials for brushing up on languages or techniques:

Google's Guide to Technical Development
[g.co/techdevguide](#)

Simplest Programming Tutorials:

<http://bit.ly/2raT0T8>

Practice Questions:

Visit the [TopCoder](#) website and [Project Euler](#) for tutorials and questions, as well as [Glassdoor](#).

Coding Practice Tools

[Codepad.remoteinterview.io](#)
[Pramp.com/#/](#)

Serious Practice Questions

Sign up for an account on [leetcode.com](#) and have your practice answers reviewed by others

Suggested Text:

[Cracking the Coding Interview, 6th Edition](#)

Behavioral interviewing is looking at how someone acted in past situations, since past behavior often dictates future behavior. These questions often start with "Tell me about a time when..." or "Describe a situation.." or

Behavioral Interview Tips

“How did you...” All of these types of questions are looking for a story about how a candidate responded in past experiences.

The STAR Technique

Organizations rely on behavioral interviewing to screen candidates. Even if you are not asked a behavioral question, it is still appropriate to use the STAR formula in response. People remember stories and examples more frequently than simple responses.

- **Situation:** Sets the Stage. Provide an overview, being specific and succinct.
- **Task:** Describe the goal you were working towards.
- **Action:** Describe *your* actions, steps you took.
- **Result:** Describe the outcome, if possible. This is your time to take credit for your work.

STAR Example

Question: Tell me about a time you had to manage multiple projects.

S: I ended up with 3 projects due on the same day

T: I was assigned a research project and a presentation, as well as a deadline for my client in senior design.

A: I prioritized a list and consulted with my senior design team... I blocked off more time... set limits for each project... etc.

R: I ended up finishing the component for senior design ahead of schedule, which pleased both my team and our client. I was then able to turn my focus to the research project and presentation.

EXAMPLES OF BEHAVIORAL INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

- Tell me about a time you failed
- Describe a time when you experienced conflict on a team (or with a client/customer)
- Tell me about this project on your resume
- Give me an example of when you had to go above and beyond to get the job done
- Describe a time when you experienced a challenging problem. What steps did you take to solve it?

RESOURCES

InterviewStream: A mock interview tool you can use at home. Accessed through Career Services' website, under "Resume and Interviewing"

Meet a Career Development Advisor: schedule a mock interview appointment to meet with a Career Development Advisor to go through a mock interview.

Finishing Up An Interview

Ask good questions during and at the end of each interview, this is your opportunity to interview the company as well! Asking questions shows interest in the company and role. After your interview, send an email or handwritten thank you note and follow up as necessary to show continued interest.

EXAMPLE QUESTIONS TO ASK

- What is a project you're working on right now that you are excited about?
- What does an average day look like for an intern at your company?
- What makes your company different from your competition?
- What do you enjoy most about your job?
- What are your expectations for this person in the first 60/90 days (or by the end of the internship)?