



Interviewing for your first tech job

Patterns for success



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Agenda

1. Preparation



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2. Practice



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3. Follow Up



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Checklist



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Questions

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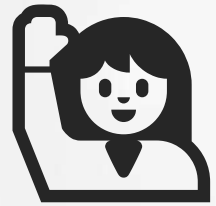
1. Preparation



Preparation



Research the company and position



Write down your own questions



Proofread and print your resume



Do your research



Read the job description and make notes



Read the company's website and make notes



Search for online information about this job / team



Search for recent news about the company





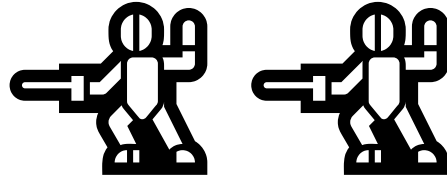
Quality questions
can land you a job
over others who
have more
experience



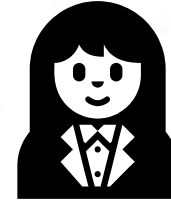
Write down your questions about...



The position



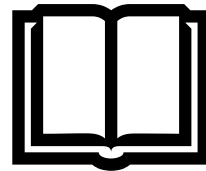
The team



The interviewer



The company



Benefits and
learning
opportunities



Future
opportunities



Example questions

Position

Can you describe what an average day of work in this job will be like?

Team

How does the team work together? Can you give me an example of a time the team did something great together?

Interviewer

How long have you worked here? What are the things about this company that keep you coming back to work every day?



Example questions

Company

Who do you see as your primary customer, and how do you bring value to that customer?

Benefits

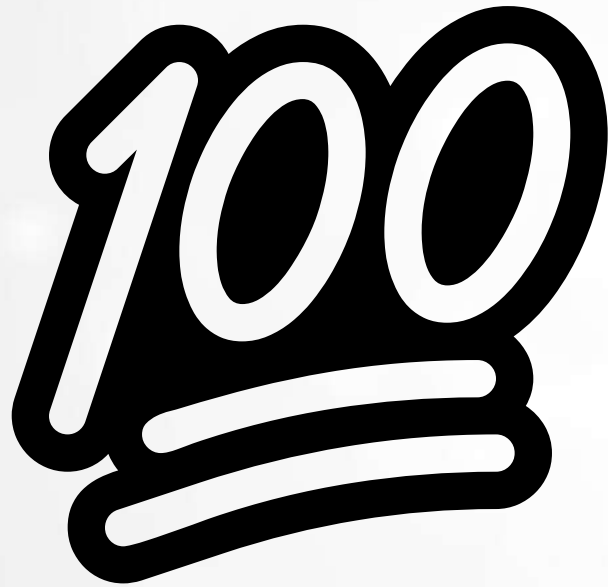
How do team members learn? Do people go to conferences?

Opportunity

What kind of growth opportunities are available in the company for employees long term?



Advanced mode



“Let’s say that I get this position. After I’ve ramped up, we set goals for what a great year would look like.

What are those goals?”



Proof & print

Bring with you:

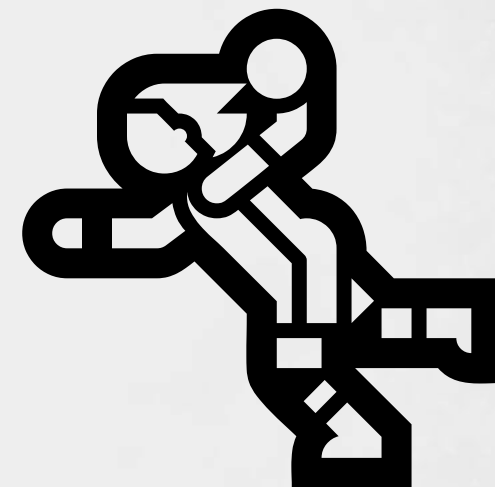
- Those written questions
- Copies of your resume

And be very fresh on what's in that resume

- You'll get questions about it



2. Practice



Practice



Identify example questions



Practice answering them out loud



Practice saying “I don’t know” properly



Identify example questions for the job

Factual

“What is an index? How is it different from a table?”

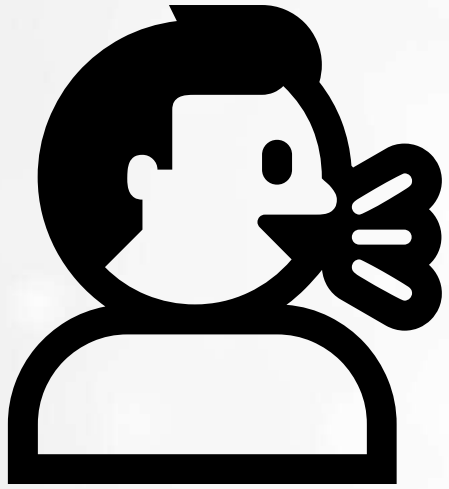
Behavioral

“Tell me about a time you made a significant error.”

Predictive

“You’re working alone in the NOC and are escalating a call, but nobody answers. What would you do?”

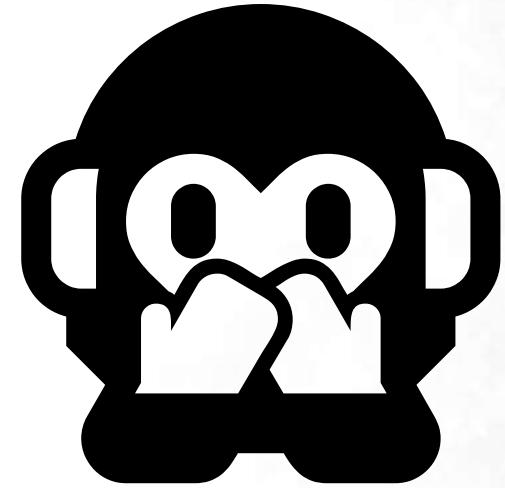




Practice answering
out loud



No really, out loud





There are right and
wrong ways to say
“I don’t know”



Wrong ways



“I don’t know.”



“I have no idea.”



Anything untrue or made up



Right ways



“I don’t know. I think I could figure that out by....”



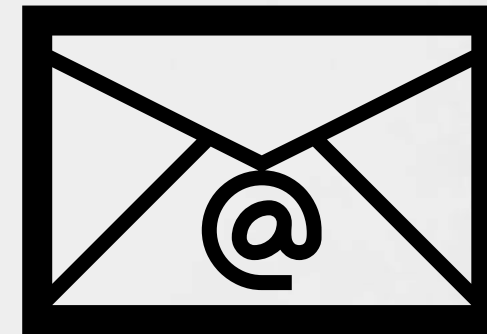
“I’m not sure. I’d love to take a guess, I suspect that...”



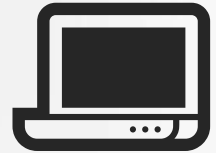
“Wow, I don’t know, and I’m not sure how I would figure that out. Do you have a suggestion on where I could learn about that?”



3. Follow Up



Follow Up



Research a follow up item (optional)



Send a thank you email

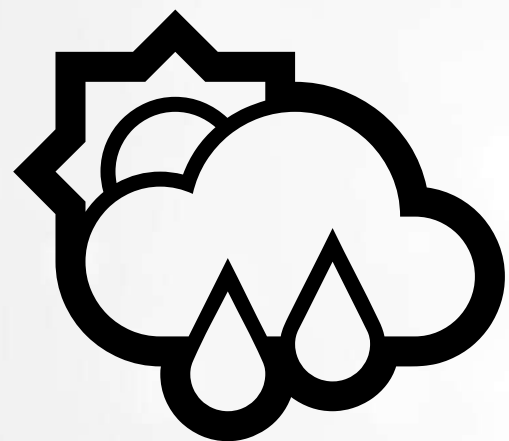


Update your interview kit



We should all flunk
interviews
sometimes





Taking value from an interview disaster



Researching a follow-up

Were you stumped by something?

Wish you'd answered a question differently?

Demonstrate initiative – pick one thing

- Research the answer
- Write a short summary
- Include that in your thank-you mail



Send a thank you



Get the hiring manager's email during the process – or ask the HR person to forward



Tailor the email to the team and interview



Express your interest in the job



Update your interview kit



Should you change something on your resume?



Ideas for better practice questions?



Ideas for better questions to ask at future interviews?



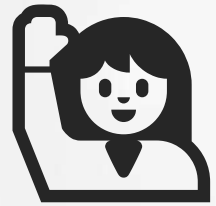
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Preparation



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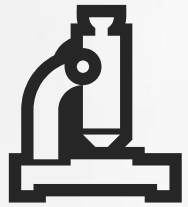
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Proofread and print your resume



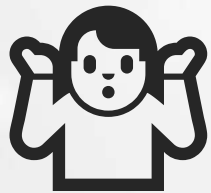
Practice



Identify example questions



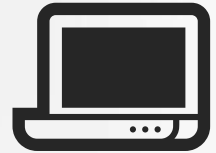
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