

# Interview Tips & Tricks

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# How do I learn about companies?

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Do your homework.

- Company website
  - LinkedIn company page
  - Employees on LinkedIn
  - Press Releases
  - Funding information (Crunchbase)
  - Glassdoor
  - Follow them on Twitter
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# Interview Preparation

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When the interview gets scheduled, you have a chance to ask who you will be meeting with, how long to expect the interview to last, where to park, or any other key questions.

It's as important to know what you don't want, as it is to know what you do want.

What do you want to know about **them**? Always have a few questions ready:

- What is a typical day like in this role?
- What are the expectations about the first 90 days of this job?
- What do you like best about working here?

*From [The Ultimate Interview Prep Checklist](#) by US News, and [Interviewing 101](#) by Wendy Saccuzzo*

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# Prepare your story.

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Most interviews start with, “Tell me about yourself.”

Previous to the interview, this is your chance to prep your answer, *specific to what you know about the role.*

Tell them what your competitive edge is for this role.

What are the key qualifications they are looking for? Think about you:

- Do you have experience with their tech stack if you're an engineer?
  - Do you have an area of expertise which aligns with their business or the department?
  - If you know someone at the company who can fill you in on the pain of the department, how can your skills and experience solve their pain?
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# Telling your story: a strategy.

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## **Present:**

Recently, I completed a software engineering program at Hackbright Academy, learning Python, SQL...(insert relevant technologies required by the position) and creating...(insert detail about your project).

## **Past:**

Before Hackbright, I worked as a program manager running day to day logistics of the education program at Udacity. Before that, I worked as a team lead at Instacart and managed a team of 7 customer service reps.

## **Future:**

Now, I am seeking a role where I can continue to be challenged with new problems to solve, and that's why I applied for this position! I'd love to contribute my team work and process management skills along with my python and database experience to creating solutions on your team.

***Add some color! Make it your story and include more details about the experiences you have had and the work you have done.***

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# As you prepare for the interview...

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Know what the company does. Have a simple answer describing their business. Use their app if you can.

*Why are you interested in this role and company?*

*What is it about the company's story that makes you passionate about it?*

- Tie to a personal story if possible.
  - Emphasize why it's core to you.
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# Behavioral Interview Questions

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## STAR:

**S**ituation

**T**ask

**A**ction

**R**esults

Take some time to think about difficult situations you've encountered at work or with groups, and what your contribution was to resolve the situation.

Behavioral interview questions are a chance to demonstrate your self-awareness and let your key skills shine.

Write the story down, and then pare it down to a few key sentences using STAR.

Prepare a few different scenarios and rehearse.

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# Interview Tips

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- Attire: Business casual is always a safe choice- no jeans.
- Be confident but not overly so.
- Be prepared- be able to tell the story of what the company does, and get their app if possible.
- Be positive. Don't throw your former company or manager under the bus.
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From [Please Don't Do These 9 Things in an Interview](#) by Forbes Magazine

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# Interview Tips

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Meet your interviewer where they are at, style-wise.

Discuss benefits/perks further along in the interview process- you want them to see your value early on. Once you get the offer, you have the power and it's time to ask these questions.

Close your interviewer- sell yourself, ask what the timeline is for next steps, but not too aggressively.

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# Take the Meeting. Have the Talk.

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If I could give one piece of career advice to people, it's this: **Just say yes. Just do it. Try it. See what happens.**

Accept that invitation to do a talk that you don't really you're qualified for. Go meet that person for coffee, even if you don't really see the point. Throw together that website that will almost certainly never lead anywhere.

Opportunities start from saying yes.

Say yes.

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# Resources

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[How To Use Your Network In Your Job Search](#)

[The Human Workplace](#)

[The Daily Muse](#)

[10 Tech Interview Errors](#)

[Compensation & Negotiation](#)

[Technical Interview Prep from Parker Phinney/Coding Interview Tips](#)

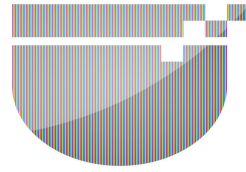
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