



Interview Prep: What to Do Before, During, and After Your Interview

Whether you're new to the process or just need a refresher, strong interview prep isn't just about showing up — it's about knowing how to engage before, during, and after. Here's how to approach each stage with intention and clarity.



Before the Interview

1. Study the job description

Focus on the skills and responsibilities listed.

- If you already have key skills they emphasize, be prepared to bring them up directly.
- If you're missing something critical, study up — showing awareness is better than pretending.

2. Research the company

- Read their website, recent press releases, and any mentions in the news.
- Understand their mission, product, market, and competitors.
- Know how the role you're applying for contributes to the business.

3. Learn about your interviewers

- Look them up on LinkedIn
- Identify any potential connections — shared employers, interests, or education
- Humanize the process: it helps you feel more confident, and them more engaged

4. Focus beyond skills

- Don't just memorize buzzwords. Understand responsibilities and outcomes.
 - Think about industry-specific software, compliance frameworks, or processes.
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During the Interview

1. Use what you've learned

- Reference things you picked up during prep: company news, tech stack, project focus

- Be proactive — if they don't mention something you know they need, offer it anyway

2. Address gaps directly

- If you're missing a listed skill, don't ignore it. Acknowledge it and explain how you'd close the gap
- "I'm a quick learner" is fine — but back it up with real examples

3. Stay focused

- Avoid going off on tangents too early
- Cover all the important technical and role-based points before shifting to small talk

4. Ask about intangibles

- Ask how they'd describe the team dynamic
- Ask what makes people succeed there
- Get a feel for the personalities and pace of the group

After the Interview

1. Send a thank-you note

- Email each interviewer if possible
- Reference something specific from the conversation
- Reaffirm your interest and what value you bring

2. Follow up

- If you haven't heard back after a few days or the timeline they gave, check in professionally

3. Leverage your network

- Try to find someone who knows the hiring manager or works at the company
- A warm recommendation can make a big difference, even post-interview

Final Thought

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Interview prep isn't about memorizing scripts — it's about doing the kind of work that shows you care, understand the role, and are serious about being part of their team.