

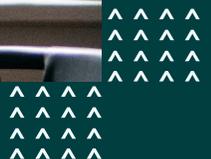
Karat Technical Interviewing 101

While technical interviews can take many forms, most of them share several key characteristics.

Here is some of the best advice we can offer to help you prep.

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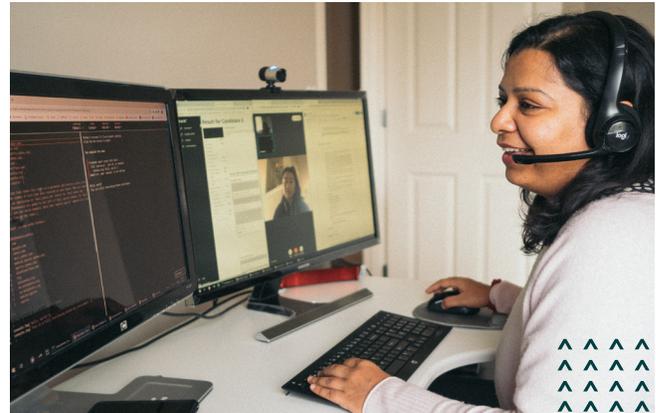


01. What to Expect From a Technical Interview

Interviews usually last for 45-60 minutes and consist of 2-3 different parts. These can include:

- A discussion of your past experience such as a project or internship
- Knowledge Questions about a domain relevant to the role
- Multi-part coding questions

Interviewers are looking to assess your coding skills, problem solving and core CS fundamentals (e.g. algorithms, data structures, analysis of time and space complexity), as well as your ability to communicate technical ideas clearly.



02. Practice Makes Perfect

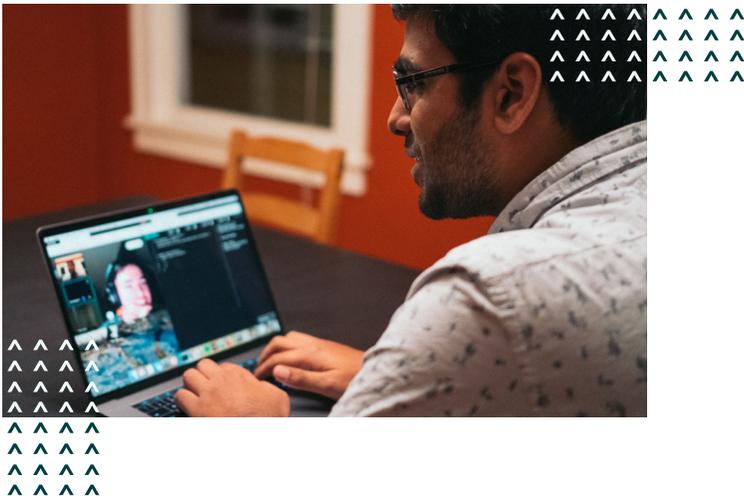
The best way to prepare for technical interviews is through doing practice problems or online code challenges - we've listed some recommendations below.

Many websites have different levels of problems (easy, medium, hard) you can work your way through.

- Practice challenges in the coding language that you feel most comfortable with. Interviewers will be looking for well-structured, clean code that is easily readable.
- Once you're familiar with the types of problems commonly seen in interviews, move on to practicing in a more realistic interview environment (e.g. under time pressure, in a restricted coding environment that is not your normal IDE, while explaining your thought process and solutions out loud).

03. During the Interview

- **Understand.** Make sure you understand the problem before diving in. Don't be afraid to ask clarifying questions if you need to. Karat Interview Engineers are there to help, if needed.
- **Optimize.** Think through the logic and the high-level structure before jumping into code. Chances are your solution will be evaluated on its optimality, so always be on the lookout for ways to make your solution more efficient.
- **Test.** Proactively look for bugs and potential edge cases and make sure to test your code throughout (you'll usually have the ability to run your code against sample inputs to verify its correctness).
- **Simplify.** Avoid making the problem more difficult by introducing complex logic or special casing. Have a checklist of ways the problem can be simplified to mentally run through at the start of every problem.
- **Explain.** Be sure to explain your thought process and coding decisions as you work through the problem. If there are multiple possible approaches, talk about the trade offs and why the one you are choosing is the most optimal.
- **Speak up.** Don't shut down if you get stuck on a problem! Let your Karat Interview Engineer know when you are unsure how to do something. They will usually be able to share some guidance and hints that may help unstick you.



04. Recommended Topics to Review

Algorithms:

- Merge sort
- Breadth-first search
- Depth-first search
- Binary search

Data Structures:

- Arrays/Lists
- Hash Tables
- Trees
- Graphs
- Stacks/Queues
- Heaps

Concepts:

- Big O complexity analysis
- Recursion



05. Practice Resources

- [Cracking the Coding Interview](#) by Gayle Laakmann McDowell
- [Geeks for Geeks Interview Database](#)
- [Top 10 Algorithm Questions](#)
- [LeetCode](#)
- [HackerRank](#)
- [Codility lessons](#)
- [Career Cup](#)

How to get help from Karat

Our Customer Experience team is available to help 24/7.

Please reach out at support@karat.com if you:

- Have an accommodation request
- Cannot find an available time slot for your interview
- Do not want to (or are unable to) self-schedule, reschedule, or cancel
- Have questions about your Karat account, The Room, Karat Studio, AV testing, or the Offline Coding Challenge
- Experience technical issues
- Experience issues with self-scheduling, rescheduling, or cancelation
- Are unable to self-schedule a redo (if available)
- Want to remove PII or delete your interview video
- Haven't received emails from us
- Have any other questions, comments, or concerns not listed here

