

5 steps to nail your technical interview

An interview for a technical job can be much more complex than other ones. Do you know the structure and questions that might come your way in a highly specialized, technical interview? It's important you're skilled and knowledgeable about your specific field, while also encompassing the behavioral attributes required for any job. Follow the steps below and you'll be better prepared to wow your interviewers!



1. Prep yourself.

Technical knowledge is ever changing. And if you want to be successful in your career (and interview) you need to be up on the latest. Visit blogs, read industry news and check out related websites for insight. Make sure your resume illustrates your experience and skills. And be sure you can answer questions about anything on it. Don't put something on your resume that you haven't done or don't know how to do. Your interview is sure to crash and burn if you do.



2. How many are there?

Interviewing is stressful. It can be extra stressful if there are three or four people waiting to interview you! Panel interviews can help the interviewers see how you handle the situation. So stay cool! And be ready to answer behavioral questions like: "If you're given a task and you don't know how to do it, what do you do?" There may not be a right or wrong answer. They want to learn more about you, your experience and see if you know what you're talking about.

3. Ready. Whiteboard.



Technical interviews can feature a test to showcase your skills. Oftentimes, this can lead to a whiteboard demonstration. For example, if you're a programmer, you might get a page of code and have to show the end product (or vice versa). This exercise can be nerve-wracking. But have no fear! Take your time and ask for clarification, if needed. Asking will show you care and are taking initiative.

4. Ask for it!



Tell them you want the job. It seems simple enough, but so many people don't do it! Who are they going to hire? The person who said, "I'm really excited about this opportunity and would love the job!" or the person who thanked them and left. How are your interviewers supposed to know you really want the job and aren't just exploring your options? If you're excited, tell them so.

5. Say thank you.



In today's digital world, it's so easy to get a thank you email out, so make sure you follow up in a timely manner. And if you feel the need to handwrite a letter as well, go for it! It will help seal the deal. But this will take a bit longer to be delivered so make sure you send an email too. A thank you goes a long way. And many managers might automatically take you out of the running if you don't do it. So do it!