



Screening Call & First Interview

Check out these articles from our Blog – they'll be particularly useful for you in preparing for this step of the interview process and beyond 🚀

- o [6 Tips to Improve the Things You Can Control in an Interview](#)
- o [How to Win at Your Next Interview](#)

We've also gathered some tips from other sources that we think are pretty cool! 💻

General tips for your first interview

Prepare

Failing to properly prepare for any interview is a sure way of reducing your chances of success. Research the company and the role like you would for a face-to-face interview but remember that over the phone it's harder to build rapport with someone, so you really need to impress with what you say and know about the company and the work they do.

Enunciate

It can be tempting to slip into a more relaxed tone over the phone – especially if you're taking the call at home and are in a comfortable environment – but it's important your responses are spoken clearly and kept concise to make yourself heard.

Ask what the next steps are

Prompt the interviewer to communicate what happens next in the interview process. As well as clarifying any steps you yourself need to take, it also shows that you're keen to hear from them and still interested in the role.

The Elevator Pitch

An "elevator pitch" originates from a journalist trying to pitch an idea to an editor. The only time to catch the editor was in the elevator and she had only around 30 seconds to do so.

The key elements of elevator pitches include:

- Short - You have limited time!
- Direct - As you only have limited time, you should get to the point
- Attention-grabbing - Present your most attractive ideas

It is important to be able to clearly and accurately describe your knowledge and skillset quickly and succinctly. Your self-introduction is an elevator pitch for yourself!

Here are some tips to develop a good elevator pitch for yourself:

KISS (Keep It Simple and Sweet)

Be prepared to tell them some highlights from your favourite/most impressive projects and including some numbers if they're impressive or challenges that you've overcome. Tell them the executive summary: "I reverse engineered X game by decrypting Y packet to predict Z." If this catches their interest, they will ask further questions on their own.

Why do they want you?

Tell the interviewer why you would make a good hire. Is your experience relevant to the company? Have you used a similar tech stack as the company or built relevant products? What unique talent(s) do you have that makes gives them confidence about your ability to contribute to the company?

Sources:

<https://yangshun.github.io/tech-interview-handbook/>

<https://www.michaelpageafrica.com/advice/career-advice/job-interview-tips/eight-tips-successful-telephone-interview>