

Developer interview checklist

Most developer hiring runs as an online coding test or take-home assignment, one or two technical rounds with senior developers, sometimes a managerial round, and a final HR discussion.

10 QUESTIONS TO PRACTISE OUT LOUD

1. What happens, step by step, when you type a URL into the browser and press Enter?

What it checks: Whether you understand the full request path, from DNS to rendering, which shows you can reason about where a web bug or slowdown actually lives.

2. Tell me about a bug that took you a long time to find.

What it checks: Your persistence and method when stuck, and whether you learned something that changed how you work, not just that you eventually fixed it.

3. What are your salary expectations for this developer role?

What it checks: Whether you have researched the market for your stack and experience and can state a reasoned range without underselling or being rigid.

4. What is the difference between var, let and const in JavaScript?

What it checks: Basic JavaScript fluency: scope, hoisting and reassignment, and whether you know the classic loop-closure bug that var causes in real code.

5. Describe a time you had to learn a new framework or language quickly.

What it checks: How you learn under time pressure, and whether you can become productive in an unfamiliar stack without needing everything taught to you.

6. What is your notice period, and can you join earlier?

What it checks: Your real availability, whether you respect your current employer's terms, and whether any early-joining promise you make is realistic.

7. How would you design a REST API for a simple to-do app?

What it checks: Whether you use HTTP methods, resource URLs and status codes correctly and think about validation, auth and pagination, not just the happy path.

8. Tell me about a time you broke something in production.

What it checks: Honesty and ownership, how calmly you recover, and whether you improved the process afterwards so the same mistake cannot happen again.

9. Why do you want to join our company as a developer?

What it checks: Whether you have researched the product and tech stack, and whether your reasons are about the work rather than only salary or location.

10. A feature works on your machine but breaks in production. How do you debug it?

What it checks: Your debugging method under pressure: reading logs, checking environment differences and reproducing safely instead of guessing and pushing random fixes.

TIPS FOR THIS INTERVIEW

- Revise one framework deeply rather than five shallowly. Be ready to explain lifecycle, state management and routing in the framework listed on your resume.

- Keep two projects you can open and walk through live, including the database schema, API routes and one bug you fixed.
- Practise coding on a plain editor without autocomplete, speaking your thinking out loud, because many live rounds run on shared editors.
- Revise HTTP status codes, REST conventions, SQL joins and indexes, since these come up in almost every web developer round.

THE DAY BEFORE

- ☐ Confirm the time, venue or video link and the interviewer's name
- ☐ Plan your route and leave time for traffic, or test your camera, microphone and internet
- ☐ Keep copies of your resume, ID proof, certificates and photographs in a folder
- ☐ Iron your clothes and charge your phone and laptop
- ☐ Do one final run-through of your introduction, then stop and rest

ON THE DAY

- ☐ Arrive 15 minutes early, or log in 5–10 minutes early for a video call
- ☐ Greet everyone politely, including the receptionist or coordinator
- ☐ Listen to the full question, pause, then answer in a clear structure
- ☐ Take brief notes of names and key points
- ☐ Ask your prepared questions and confirm the next steps before you leave