

# CASE INTERVIEW QUICK START GUIDE



Case interviews are showing up  
in all industries, not just consulting!  
Here's how to launch your prep and  
succeed in the toughest interviews of your career.

MBACASE

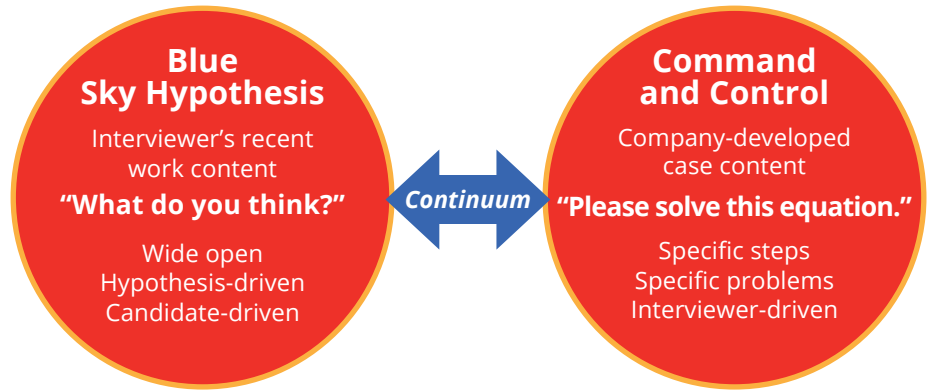
# 1 LEARN THE BASICS

## What's a case interview?

An interviewer states a business question or an analytical problem. Typically you have 15-25 minutes to solve it through discussion and data analysis. Your interviewer will question your logic, test your analytical skills, and expect a final recommendation.

## Business Case Variants

### Interviewer Style



### Format

One-on-One	Small Group	Analysis Only	Analyze & Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Most typical format</li> <li>Interviewer style and case content vary widely</li> <li>Be ready to drive the discussion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Usually final round only</li> <li>Rare but growing in popularity</li> <li>Listen and collaborate!</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You and a computer or paper exam</li> <li>Usually a threshold test</li> <li>Emphasis on quant skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You, blank slides, and a case</li> <li>Present to 2-3 people</li> <li>Have a tight storyline and solid recommendation</li> </ul>

### Company- or Industry-Specific



#### Generalist Consulting

Firms that advise a broad set of companies and industries may give you a case on any topic. A firm's recent client work may show up in your case!



#### Company-Specific

Expect cases that are centered on their specific industry and day-to-day problems. Be sure to read up on their most recent challenges and products.



#### Industry-Specific

Firms that advise in specific industries will give cases on those topics. Educate yourself on current challenges and trends.

# 2 BUILD YOUR SKILLS

## How can I build my skills quickly?

After you understand the flow of a case, it's time to start focused drills. Practice these by yourself and with partners. Make specific drills for each section of the case.

### Typical 15-25 Minute Business Case

#### Structure (5-7 MIN)

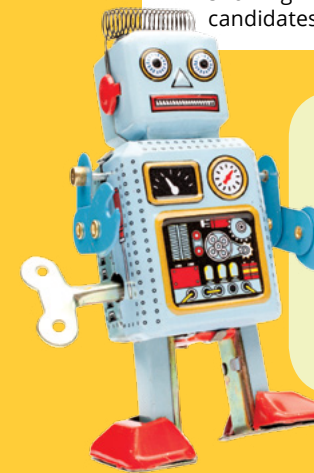
- Practice case starts with your partners or by yourself (always out loud)
- Watch our videos showing interviewers and candidates on [mbacase.com](http://mbacase.com)

#### Analysis (5-10 MIN)

- Accelerate your quick math estimates
- Discover insights and patterns in charts and graphs

#### Integration (5-7 MIN)

- Practice giving 3-point recommendations out loud
- Give an alternate conclusion



### Break Free from Robot Mode

- Limit the number of frameworks you memorize; use simple structures that make sense for the case at hand (try our MBACASE MVM)
- Interact by asking the interviewer questions
- Use everyday language that is relevant to the case. For instance, during a restaurant case talk about "table turnover" and "menus"

### TIPS

#### Case Communication

- Keep your answers under 90 seconds
- Get to the point quickly
- Explain your logic
- Anticipate questions
- Give a firm recommendation at the end



# 3 PLAN TO WIN!

## How should I prepare?

Optimize your time with this 5 step approach to winning at cases! Once you have done >25 practice cases, your performance will improve dramatically.



**Step 1** Form your practice team • Gather your case materials • Make your partner schedule • Watch a full case video on MBACASE.com

**Step 2** Learn how to structure profit trees • Practice Block, Break & Ask technique • Do 10 case starts on MBACASE.com

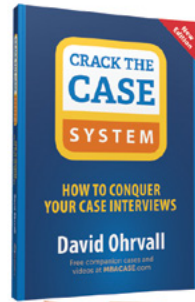
**Step 3** Practice with partners • Find your weak spots • Score your cases with the MBACASE Scorecard

**Step 4** Review your feedback • Drill on weak spots • Work on mental math and slides

**Step 5** Practice with alums & pros • Fine-tune for target companies

Key **CONCEPTS**  
Step-by-Step **TRAINING**

160 Free  
Videos



42 Free  
Cases



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System**

The ultimate case interview guide.

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