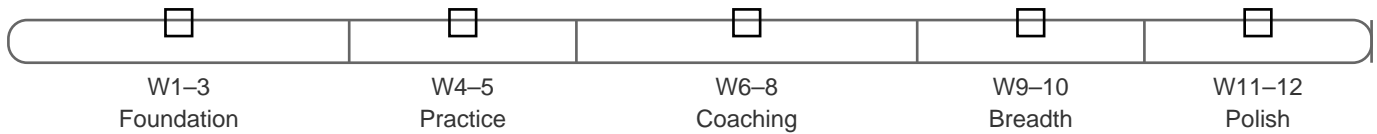


12-Week System Design Hybrid Preparation Roadmap

Optimal Mix of YouTube Learning + Coaching

Timeline Overview (check off each phase)



Weeks 1–3: Foundation Building

- YouTube focus: Distributed systems fundamentals
- Topics: Load balancing, caching, databases, message queues
- Daily time: 1–2 hours watching + note-taking
- Checkpoint: Can explain 10+ core components

Weeks 4–5: Initial Practice

- Solo practice: 5–7 common problems
- YouTube comparison after attempts
- Document gaps in understanding
- Checkpoint: Completed 5 full designs alone

Weeks 6–8: Coaching Intensive

- Session 1: Baseline assessment
- Session 2–3: Pattern correction
- Session 4–5: Progressive difficulty
- Session 6: Full mock interview
- Between-session practice: Apply feedback daily

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Weeks 9–10: Breadth Expansion

- YouTube: Edge cases, less common problems
- Optional coaching: 1 session for weak areas
- Peer practice: 2–3 mock interviews
- Checkpoint: Comfortable with 15+ problem types

Weeks 11–12: Final Polish

- Review personal failure patterns
- Light YouTube for confidence building
- Final coaching session (optional)
- Daily: 1 complete problem walkthrough
- Interview ready

Daily Routine (suggested)

- 30–45 min: Watch / review (YouTube or course clip)
- 45–60 min: Design attempt (talk out loud, write APIs/data)
- 10 min: Capture gaps + next-day focus