

Self-Study Readiness Assessment

Determine if independent preparation fits your situation

Check YES for each statement that applies to you.

Section 1: Learning Style Assessment (Yes/No)

- 1. I prefer learning independently and can stay consistent without external deadlines.
- 2. I have successfully taught myself complex technical topics before (beyond tutorials).
- 3. I practice out loud (explaining decisions) instead of only reading/watching.

Section 2: Timeline Evaluation (Yes/No)

- 4. My first system design interview is 12+ weeks away.
- 5. I can dedicate at least 8–10 hours per week for consistent practice.
- 6. I can delay interviewing if needed (low urgency).

Section 3: Feedback Needs (Yes/No)

- 7. I have access to someone who can review my designs and communication (mentor/peer).
- 8. I have not repeatedly failed system design interviews for the same reasons.
- 9. I can identify my blind spots without needing external calibration.

Section 4: Scoring Guide

Total YES count (0–9): —

- 7–9 YES:** Good fit for self-study (keep practicing out loud).
- 4–6 YES:** Consider hybrid (self-study + targeted mock/feedback).
- 0–3 YES:** Coaching likely beneficial (compress feedback loop).