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How to find the gaps in your learning

A practical way to see what you don't know yet: compare yourself with real job descriptions, build something end to end, and get your work reviewed.

proinfo-tech.com/resources/find-your-learning-gaps

A course tells you what it covers. It can't tell you what you have missed. These five steps can, and they work for any stack.

1. Read ten job descriptions

Pick ten real postings for the role you want, in the city or company type you are aiming for. Write down every skill they mention and count how often each one appears. Anything in more than half of them is core for that role.

Now mark each skill: confident, used once, or never used. That list is the start of your study plan.

2. Build one thing from start to finish

Tutorials hide the hard parts by doing them for you. A small project you build yourself, from an empty folder to something running online, shows you exactly where you get stuck. For a backend role, that might be an API with a database, a few tests, and a deployment.

Every place you had to stop and search is a gap. Write each one down.

3. Explain it out loud

Choose a topic you think you know, such as how a hash map works or what a database index does. Explain it to a friend, or record yourself, without notes. The moments you hesitate or wave your hands are the gaps that interviews find.

4. Get your code reviewed

An experienced developer reading your code will spot habits you can't see yourself: naming, structure, missing error handling, tests that don't test much. Ask a mentor, a senior colleague, or contribute a small fix to an open-source project and learn from the review.

5. Keep an error log

Each time you are stuck for more than half an hour, write down what the problem was and what solved it. Within a few weeks you will see patterns, and the patterns are your real gaps.

Free material to fill the gaps

Start with official documentation. It is accurate, current and free:

- Java: Dev.java learning paths
- Python: The Python Tutorial
- Web: MDN, Learn web development
- SQL: PostgreSQL tutorial
- Git: Pro Git book
- Kubernetes: Kubernetes tutorials
- AWS: AWS Skill Builder

If the same gap keeps coming back after you have studied it, that's where working through it with a mentor saves the most time.