

Accomplishment Statements & STAR Story: Computer Science

WHAT IS AN [ACCOMPLISHMENT STATEMENT](#)?

These are statements that make up any section of your resumé where you are stating experience, including Education, Related Experience, Volunteer Experience, Extracurricular Activities and Interests. The focus is not on the duties you performed, but on providing evidence of how well you performed them by utilizing the skills that will be valued in your target position.

Two possible formulas for Accomplishment Statements:

Option 1		
Action Verb (s)	What you did/How you did it	Result
Co-created	a mobile app for a major client, as part of a team of programmers, using C++;	which received over 100 5-star reviews on Google Play Store within 6 months of launching.

Option 2		
Action Verb (s)	Result	What you did/How you did it
Saved	the company thousands of dollars in sales	by resolving a technical glitch on their website, through persistent trouble shooting and debugging.

WHAT IS A STAR STORY?

The [STAR](#) technique can be used in cover letters and for answering behavioural interview questions. The use of STAR technique is an effective way to provide evidence of your skills and competencies, and to highlight your accomplishments from your relevant current or previous jobs or educational experiences in a clear, concise, and structured manner.

Formula: STAR = S (situation) + T (task) + A (actions) + R (results)

STAR Example:

Question: Describe a situation in which you met a major obstacle in order to complete a project. What steps did you take to deal with it?

S: While working for a small start-up, the founders decided that they wanted to build a mobile app for their service, and asked me if I could take it on. Prior to this, I had no experience creating apps, and only cursory knowledge of the programming language needed to do so.

T: To be able to take on this project, I needed to learn how to use C++, as there was no one else on the team who had a computer science background.

A: I started looking online for courses I could take to learn the language. I spent many hours on LinkedIn Learning developing my knowledge. To test what I was learning, I started a small personal project building an app. As my knowledge of C++ increased, I further developed the app, adding new features and functionality. There were many bugs and glitches that came up along the way, and I persistently worked to troubleshoot and debug them, in order to make the app functional. Eventually, after a long period of trial and error, I was satisfied with the results, and told my boss that I was ready to take on building their app.

R: Using the knowledge I had gained from working on my own project, I was able to anticipate the kinds of issues that might come up, and was able to complete the company's app at a much faster pace. Ultimately, my boss was very pleased with how it turned out, and the app launch was successful.