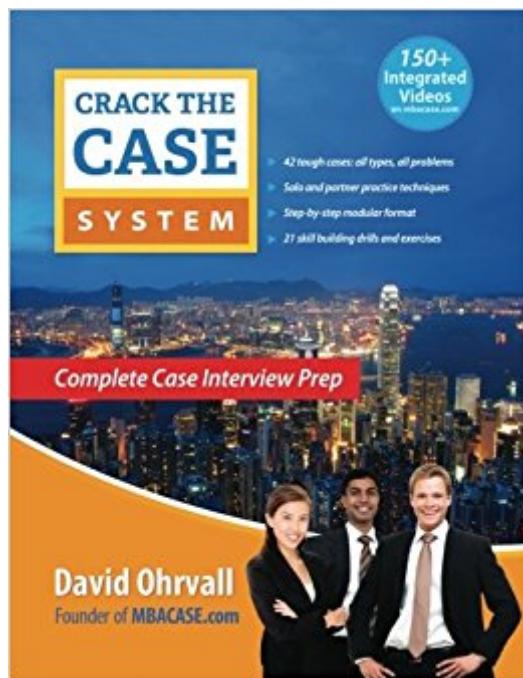


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# Crack The Case System: Complete Case Interview Prep



## Synopsis

Crack the Case System is a complete training program, covering every aspect of the infamous “case interview” favored by top management consulting firms and a growing number of Fortune 500 companies. David Ohrvall’s step-by-step approach combines practical instruction on structuring, analytics and communication, as well as insider tips and insights gained from training thousands of candidates. CTCS includes over 150 bonus videos on [mbacase.com](http://mbacase.com), 42 practice cases, homework and drills. About the author: David Ohrvall is the global expert on the topic of case interviews. A dynamic and sought-after speaker, he trains several thousand MBAs and undergraduates each year at premiere business schools around the world, including Wharton, Stanford, Harvard Business School, Chicago Booth, Duke’s Fuqua School of Business, INSEAD, Oxford and Cambridge. David also has an extensive private coaching practice that has helped launch hundreds of candidates into consulting, venture capital, and a variety of industries. David is a former management consultant (Bain & Company), and a graduate of the Wharton School (MBA & undergrad). Learn more about David at [www.mbacase.com](http://www.mbacase.com).

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## Customer Reviews

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venture capital, and a variety of industries. David is a former management consultant (Bain & Company), and a graduate of the Wharton School (MBA & undergrad). Learn more about David at [www.mbacase.com](http://www.mbacase.com).

You want a job in consulting? This book is a MUST HAVE! David Ohrvall is indubitably THE black-belt of case interview preparation and this book is the preparation bible of any serious candidates. While preparing for my interview, I ordered a half-dozen books all pertaining to case interview preparation, and *Crack The Case System* is by far the very best. My only regret is not to have discovered this book before: it's a real gold mine! Through a very exhaustive approach, it guided me through the secrets and insider's tips to navigate efficiently amongst the expectations and dangers of case interviews. What I liked the most about it is its modularity: whether you have 6 months or just 2 weeks to prepare, beginner or experienced, *Crack The Case* will best suit your needs. In less than 3 weeks, this book gave me the best possible preparation for my interview with McKinsey for the following four reasons: (1) It guided me through both case questions and behavioural questions (too often neglected by candidates); (2) It provided me with amazing frameworks that are easy to comprehend and apply broadly; (3) It helped me to efficiently use graphs and visual synthesis (very important!) and how to optimize my verbal and non-verbal communications; (4) How to open and close cases like a consultant. And finally, what's totally unique about this book is the dozens of free videos that come with each chapter and each case spanning over multiple sectors and focuses. In summary, the value proposition of this book is GREAT. It proved to be my best return-on-investment. You want to be hired as a consultant: get this book!

In preparation for case interviews, I read 4 of the major case interview prep books (Ohrvall, Cheng, Darling, Cosentino). While all of them have been beneficial, David's book really stood out to me for a variety of reasons. First, David's book is incredibly thorough. At 536 pages, it is certainly the largest case prep book I have seen and probably the largest on the market. The book touches on everything. Frameworks, behavioral questions, types of cases, tips for the actual case-day, and a wide variety of sample cases, just to name a few. In addition to that, you have access to over 100 videos on his website that support the cases in the book. The resource is truly comprehensive and very helpful in the preparation process. Second, I really benefitted from the sample dialogue/answers David provides in his book and in the videos. It is one thing for someone to tell you to do something a certain way, but it is different for them to provide concrete examples for how to do it. For instance, I enjoyed reading the comparison of the mediocre candidate and the

excellent candidate in chapter 2, section 4 because I know I was a lot like the mediocre candidate and thought I was doing pretty well. To see what a truly ÅfÅ¢Ã ª ¬Ã Å“excellentÅfÅ¢Ã ª ¬Ã Å• candidate would say, think about, etc. as they walk through a case is always very helpful.Third, while this book certainly gives structured frameworks for how to attack different case problems, I always got the sense that what David was trying to communicate in his book was that each case will be a little different so you have to be creative and flexible in attacking each problem. Other books feel a bit more rigid, but David provides a lot of tools to help you think creatively about how to approach different problems, or even similar problems, but from different angles. I think this is important because if you only know how to approach/solve a certain number of case questions, you will get really flustered if given something else in the interview. DavidÅfÅ¢Ã ª ¬Ã ª„¢s book teaches you categories to think through, but not a rigid set of structures that could be limiting if you received a unique type of problem.Fourth, I found Chapter 5, Section 13 very helpful because David looks at a large variety of the types of cases you may receive (growth strategy, profit, exit a business, etc.) and writes out a two page roadmap using his FRAME outline for how he would attack a problem like this. Again, it doesnÅfÅ¢Ã ª ¬Ã ª„¢t feel so rigid that you feel constrained, but it does give helpful guidance to know how to attack these types of problems. After I do a practice case given by a friend, I will often refer back to this section see how David might have dug into a similar problem to determine areas I could improve.Finally, though I am not very good at doing this, I think DavidÅfÅ¢Ã ª ¬Ã ª„¢s advice about finding 2nd level insights and doing mid-case structures is really important. I know I sometimes get bogged down in details during cases or get going too fast and skip over important information. DavidÅfÅ¢Ã ª ¬Ã ª„¢s advice about note-taking, creating graphs/charts/tables, and continuing to block & break data is key for doing well in the analysis portion of the case.Overall, I have benefitted tremendously from DavidÅfÅ¢Ã ª ¬Ã ª„¢s book and I highly recommend it to others who are preparing for cases!

This book has been a tremendous help as I prepare for my case interviews. I can not recommend Crack the Case System strongly enough!At 500+ pages, this is by far the most thorough case prep book I found. The first half is a tutorial on how to approach a case, structure your response, dig for deeper insights, and summarize a solid recommendation. The videos and "homework" assignments in each section make it easy to absorb the content and build your skills. For me, the most helpful section of the book is all about finding "second level insights." Finding the second level insights is what makes a candidate stand out to an interviewer, and ultimately earns the candidate a job offer. No other case prep book that I have seen has this kind of content.The second half of the book has

42 different cases to practice, ranging from small "case starts," to mini-cases, and full cases. An added bonus is that if it is difficult for you to find a partner to practice, each case has several videos that you can use to practice on your own. Some of the other comments on this page are that this book was too long, but I loved having so many challenging cases and such in depth content....very highly recommended.

As someone who is new to casing this book has been a wonderful guide in my preparation. David came onto campus and gave two training's to kick start the crack the case system. He was energetic and passionate about teaching the skills to master case interviews. I have found the book and the corresponding videos to be very helpful. The first half of the book is dedicated to teaching skills and concepts while the 2nd half is full of cases to practice. The cases are full of helpful tips and easy for a partner to deliver or give a mock interview. The website has video's to practice cases and see some best answers. This book is really designed for you to put in the effort and make sure you work smart to hone in on your weaknesses and solidify your strengths. Highly recommended.

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