

Things I Wish I'd Been Told When I First Started Learning Programming

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Be careful with books and lectures

- Do things, build projects
 - Because it's fun
 - Because you'll actually learn
- Times have changed, information is open now

Tools of the Trade

- Cheating is perfectly acceptable

Google and StackOverflow are at least 70% of your job

...but don't be a Cargo Cult Programmer

- Fancy programming tools are overrated

Programming language choice doesn't matter...until it does

- Use whatever is the most convenient
- It doesn't really matter what you start with
- Don't go for “efficiency”, “purity” etc
- No tool is perfect for every job

...or ever

But...

- Smart people probably did things for a good reason,
be curious!

You will read far more code than you will write

- Readability matters
- Plan your code
- Comment your code

Your most important team mate is yourself in the future

You might think you will remember

...you won't

- Rubber Ducky Debugging (Pair Programming)

How to ask for help (Online)

- First, make absolutely sure Google doesn't already have the answers
- **Overcommunicate**
- Explain exactly what should be happening
- Explain exactly what is happening
- Explain exactly what other factors may be involved (OS, program version, etc.)

Don't Sweat the Details

- Your goal shouldn't be to know everything

“I don't know, but I can find out”

- Imposter syndrome is real

Summary

- Do things, build projects
- Cheating is acceptable, but don't be a Cargo Cult Programmer
- No tool is perfect
- Readability matters
- Plan your code
- Overcommunicate when asking for help
- "I don't know, but I can find out"

Have fun!



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IT WORKS!
I LOVE PROGRAMMING