The most important lesson

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Master's Degree in Digital Humanities - Bonus Lesson

Your mantra

Rule 1
RTFM.

Rule 2
Never underestimate Rule 1's power.

Rule 3
If the manual does not help, someone else has surely had your same problem, and asked for a solution on StackOverflow...

Rule 4
...unless you are the only one with the problem, at which point, the problem is very most likely you.

Looking for a solution

- In 99.9% of the cases, English is the *only* language you will use to look for solutions to computer science related problems

- Learn how to use Google effectively:
  - "word" → exact match
  - -exclude → avoid results with that word
  - site:look.here → only search within the selected website
  - avoid "I have", "I need" …

- Effective queries:
  - mysql create table site:mysql.com
  - mysql "workbench" "insert" data "table"
  - javascript setinterval example -typescript

Do not ask for help until you have tried many different solutions!

Stating the problem to someone

1. Make your **goal extremely clear**
   a. Expected input
   b. Expected behavior
   c. Expected output

2. Enumerate in detail all of the **solutions that you have already tried**. For each one explain:
   a. What did not work
   b. What you did, *in detail*
   c. What you did not, and why

3. Provide a minimum working example, or at least all the relevant information (code snippets, …)