



5-STEP ACTION PLAN TO START LEARNING PROGRAMMING

A FREE guide to get clear
direction to kick start
learning programming for
complete beginners



Crystal clear learning path
for beginners in
programming



Prepare to begin your
your career as a software
engineer



Introduction

If you have just started with programming

- **You might not be having any idea on where to start.**
- Although you would have come across various suggestions, they feel more theoretical and of less use in the practical world.
- You feel **confused and helpless without a proper guidance.**
- You are more **worried** about how to take forward the initial stage of your programming career.

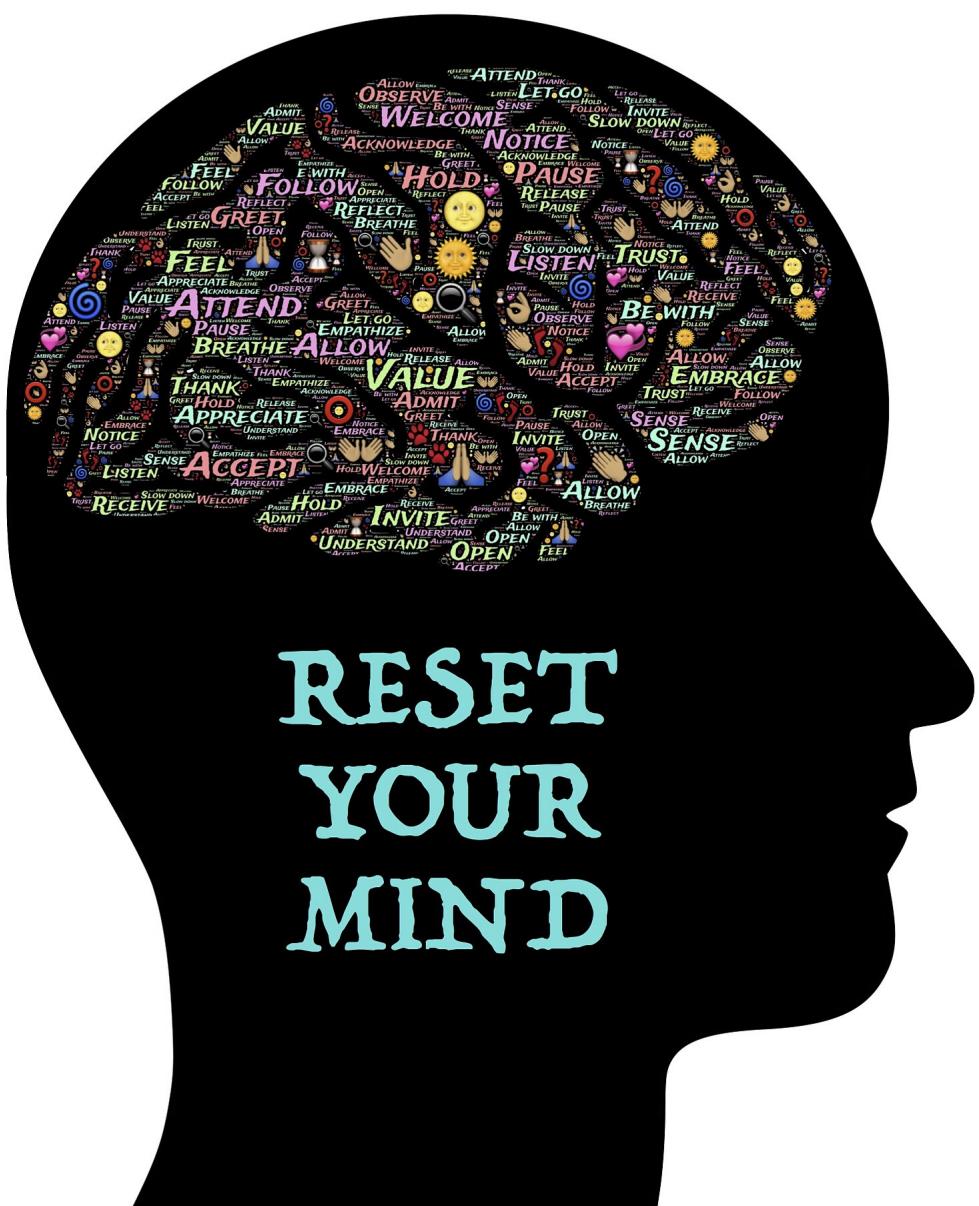
You are looking for

- A **direction to start learning programming.**
- You need a helping hand to **guide you with the right steps** to begin your coding journey.
- You want to be **aware of the basic steps in learning programming.**

This guide will teach you

- The key steps you should take to start learning programming.
- You will **be provided with a clear path to follow** based on my 14 years of real world experience in coding and programming.
- You will be **more confident and more focused** with your next steps.
- You will be well informed and prepared to begin your programming journey.
- You do not require any coding knowledge to follow this guide.

STEP 1: CHANGE YOUR MINDSET BEFORE YOU START



Change Your Mindset Before You Start

- **Don't get overwhelmed.** The programming field is huge. There are many career paths and a lot to learn. You shouldn't try to cover everything at the same time. An experienced programmer picks a path and generally sticks to it. A beginner mayn't know his career path initially. It will become clearer after about 2-3 years.
- Contrary to what a beginner thinks, most of the **experienced programmers who are successful are expertise in specific languages**. Becoming an expert in a programming language takes time and commitment. You should choose your area of interest and learn those specific languages, at least in the initial stage.
- **It takes time to master one programming language.** Knowing a programming language is different from mastering the programming language. There are always complex topics in any programming language. Take your time to master it. Don't rush.
- You need to **be focused with your goal**. It's easy to lose track of oneself in the programming field. You will be facing many distractions in your daily corporate life. You should try your best to be focused with your goal and work towards it.

STEP 2: KNOW YOUR PURPOSE OF LEARNING



Know Your Purpose of Learning

- Knowing why you want to learn programming clears up many unknowns and helps in arriving with a better plan to start learning programming.
- Brainstorm yourself and note what is your goal. **A clear definition of your goal sets the rest of your actions.**
- For example, say you are in your last semester of your studies. You then set your goal as:

"Preparing for my 1st job as a software engineer after earning my degree".

In that case, you should:

- Have a clear understanding of programming basics.
 - Be passionate to learn.
 - Ready to adapt yourself to the company culture.
 - Be mentally prepared to learn a new programming language as per new job.
- As another example, say you are bored with your current non-IT job and looking to switch your career towards programming, then your goal will be:

"Preparing for a new career path as software engineer".

In this case, you should:

- Be aware of new skills required in the new programming field.
- Look for ways to leverage your current expertise in some way.
- Look for any internal opportunities available within your current company.
- If internal opportunities exists, then what are the job requirements for those programmer roles.

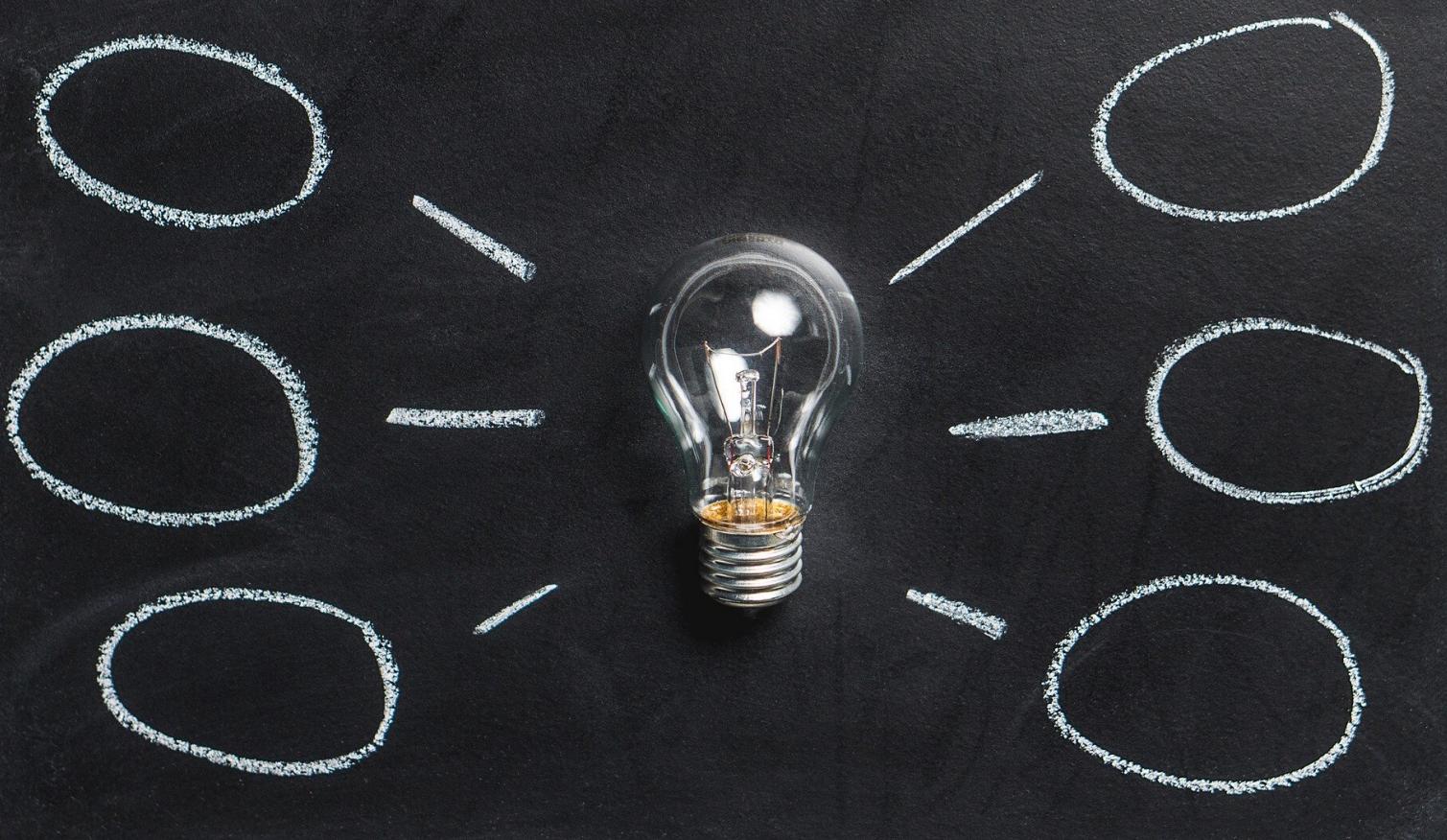
STEP 3: PICK A MENTOR



Pick A Mentor

- Who is a Mentor? **A Mentor helps a person develop their skill set and reach their personal goals through his expertise.**
- **You learn faster** if you have a mentor to assist you while learning programming. **You will be more confident** during your journey of learning programming. Having a mentor has a huge benefit for you in the long run
- Hence, **look for a mentor** and learn better with his assistance.
- **A mentor can either be available physically or completely online.**
 - **Physically available mentors:**
 - Your Computer Science teacher or instructor in your college.
 - Your friend having programming knowledge.
 - Your colleagues who are in the development team.
 - Mentor ship programs in your company.
 - **Online mentors:**
 - Online Course instructors. They are nominally priced and offer excellent value for money.
 - New startups on mentoring which are mostly expensive.
 - YouTubers, are free (Note: You need to be cautious while looking for a YouTuber as programming mentor)
- **I recommend an online course instructor as your mentor**, as the learning structure is well organized, they provide various courses as per your learning path, you have fellow students who are like minded, and so on.

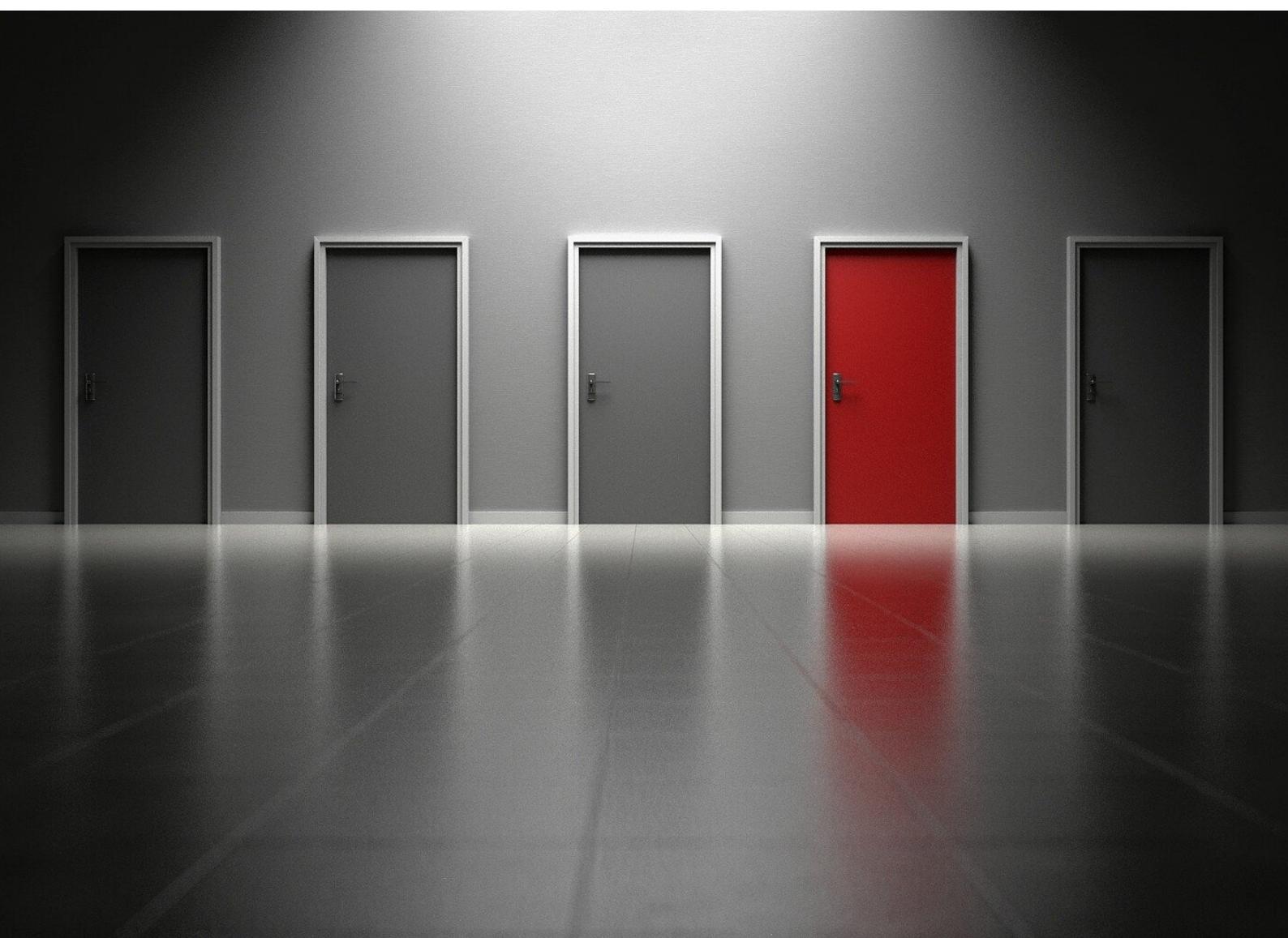
STEP 4: LEARN THE FUNDAMENTALS OF PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES



Learn the Fundamentals of Programming Languages

- Understanding basics of programming languages should be your first priority. As a beginner, you will have a desire to learn the most popular programming languages now.
- **I recommend starting with learning the Programming Concepts first. Concepts are the most important things to grasp when it comes to programming.**
- Think for a moment. There are so many programming languages out there, each having their own path to become an expert in them. It's going to take ages if you are going to memorize the syntax of each and every aspect of a programming language.
- The basic coding concepts are almost the same across all programming languages.
- **Once you learn the fundamentals of programming languages, then it becomes a lot easier to learn any programming language.**
- Your action plan after completing this guide should be to start learning the fundamentals of programming languages.

STEP 5: CHOOSE A PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE TO LEARN



Choose a Programming Language to Learn

- There are many programming languages out there making the beginners confused in choosing the right one to start with. Most probably you too are having this question in mind.
- Remember that you shouldn't skip learning the fundamentals of programming concepts covered in Step 4, so that you can learn your first programming language a lot easier.
- **Typically beginners start with C or Python** as they are easier for a beginner to learn. Also, it also depends upon your situation, your goals, and what you want to create.
- Don't stress yourself too much in deciding perfectly which programming language to learn first.
- Choose a programming language of your choice **as per your situation**.
- My recommended suggestion is to **keep yourself open to learn the programming language as per required in your first job**. Any programming language can be learned at any time. You can always learn your preferred language later as well.

Conclusion

With this 5-Step guide on how to start learning programming, my goal was to teach you the key steps you should take to start learning programming. Also provide a clear path to follow based on my 14+ years of real world experience in coding and programming.

I hope this guide helped you in kick starting your career in software industry.

If there is anything you feel can be improved in this guide to make it better, please email me at hello@CodeWithPraveen.com

I look forward to see you grow in your programming career!

Cheers,
Praveen
Online Instructor at CodeWithPraveen.com

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