

Install debug Gem

Welcome to the next section of the course. In the following lessons, we'll learn about debugging in Ruby. **Debugging** means walking through our program step to step to identify bugs or understand design.

We'll be using a special library called **debug**. A **library** is a collection of Ruby code for solving problems in a specific domain. Think of it like an "expansion pack" or an "add on" for the language.

Some libraries are built into the core Ruby language while others are built by the community. The Ruby community uses the word **Gem** to describe these community libraries. If you've heard of Ruby on Rails, that's one example of a **Gem**. There are thousands of others.

To determine your next steps, you'll need to verify your installed version of Ruby. Open up your Terminal/Command prompt and execute **ruby -v** to see your version number.

1. > ruby -v
2. ruby 3.2.0 (2022-12-25 revision a528908271) [arm64-darwin22]

Ruby 3.1 or Above

If you're running Ruby 3.1 or greater, you already have the **debug** library installed as part of the base language. You are good to proceed to the next lesson.

Other Version of Ruby

If your Ruby version is below 3.1, you'll need install the **debug** Gem for the following lessons. In your Terminal/Command Prompt, execute the command **gem install debug**. The output should look like this:

1. > gem install debug
2. Building **native** extensions. This could take a **while**...
3. Successfully installed debug-1.7.1
4. Parsing documentation **for** debug-1.7.1
5. Done installing documentation **for** debug after 0 seconds
6. 1 gem installed

Once installation completes, you are good to proceed to the next lesson.