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What is a Getting Started competition?

Getting Started competitions were created by Kaggle data scientists for people who have little to no machine learning background. They are a great place to begin if you are new to data science or just finished a MOOC and want to get involved in Kaggle.

Getting Started competitions are a non-competitive way to get familiar with Kaggle's platform, learn basic machine learning concepts, and start meeting people in the community. They have no cash prize and are on a rolling timeline.

What's the difference between a private and public leaderboard?

The Kaggle leaderboard has a public and private component to prevent participants from "overfitting" to the leaderboard. If your model is "overfit" to a dataset then it is not generalizable outside of the dataset you trained it on. This means that your model would have low accuracy on another sample of data taken from a similar dataset.

Public Leaderboard

For all participants, the same 50% of predictions from the test set are assigned to the public leaderboard. The score you see on the public leaderboard reflects your model's accuracy on this portion of the test set.

Private Leaderboard

The other 50% of predictions from the test set are assigned to the private leaderboard. The private leaderboard is not visible to participants until the competition has concluded. At the end of a competition, we will reveal the private leaderboard so you can see your score on the other 50% of the test data. The scores on the private leaderboard are used to determine the competition winners. Getting Started competitions are run on a rolling timeline so the private leaderboard is never revealed.

How do I create and manage a team?

When you accept the competition rules, a team will be created for you. You can invite others to your team, accept a merger with another team, and update basic information like team name by going to the More < Team page.

We've heard from many Kagglers that teaming up is the best way to learn new skills AND have fun. If you don't have a teammate already, consider asking if anyone wants to team up in the discussion forum.

What are kernels?

Kaggle Kernels is a cloud computational environment that enables reproducible and collaborative analysis. Kernels supports scripts in R and Python, Jupyter Notebooks, and RMarkdown reports. Go to the Kernels tab to view all of the publicly shared code on this competition. For more on how to use Kernels to learn data science, visit the Read more about our decision to implement a rolling leaderboard on getting started competitions here.

How do I contact Support?

Kaggle does not have a dedicated support team so you'll typically find that you receive a response more quickly by asking your question in the appropriate forum. (For this competition, you'll want to use the House Prices discussion forum).

Support is only able to help with issues that are being experienced by all participants. Before contacting support, please check the discussion forum for information on your problem. If you can't find it, you can post your problem in the forum so a fellow participant or a Kaggle team member can provide help. The forums are full of useful information on the data, metric, and different approaches. We encourage you to use the forums often. If you share your knowledge, you'll find that others will share a lot in turn!

If your problem persists or it seems to be affecting all participants then please contact us.

This competition runs indefinitely with a rolling leaderboard which invalidates entries after two months.