

96 Hours

Recently, I heard a statistic stating that most people spend on average 96 hours per month on grocery shopping, cooking, cleaning, laundry, and other household chores and administration. That equates to \$4,800 of opportunity cost for a person who earns \$50 per hour. If that person could actually use the 96 hours to earn extra income, he would be better off paying someone \$16 an hour (\$1,500 in total) to do the household chores for him.

An Update on My Custom Vanity Desk

I decided to use spare pieces of wood from my U-Desk to build a vanity desk. One of the spare pieces of wood is actually a tabletop for the bottom of the “U” of the U-Desk. I bought table legs for it on Amazon for \$25. Then, I used another spare piece of wood to create a floating desk that’s attached to the wall on the opposite side of the room.

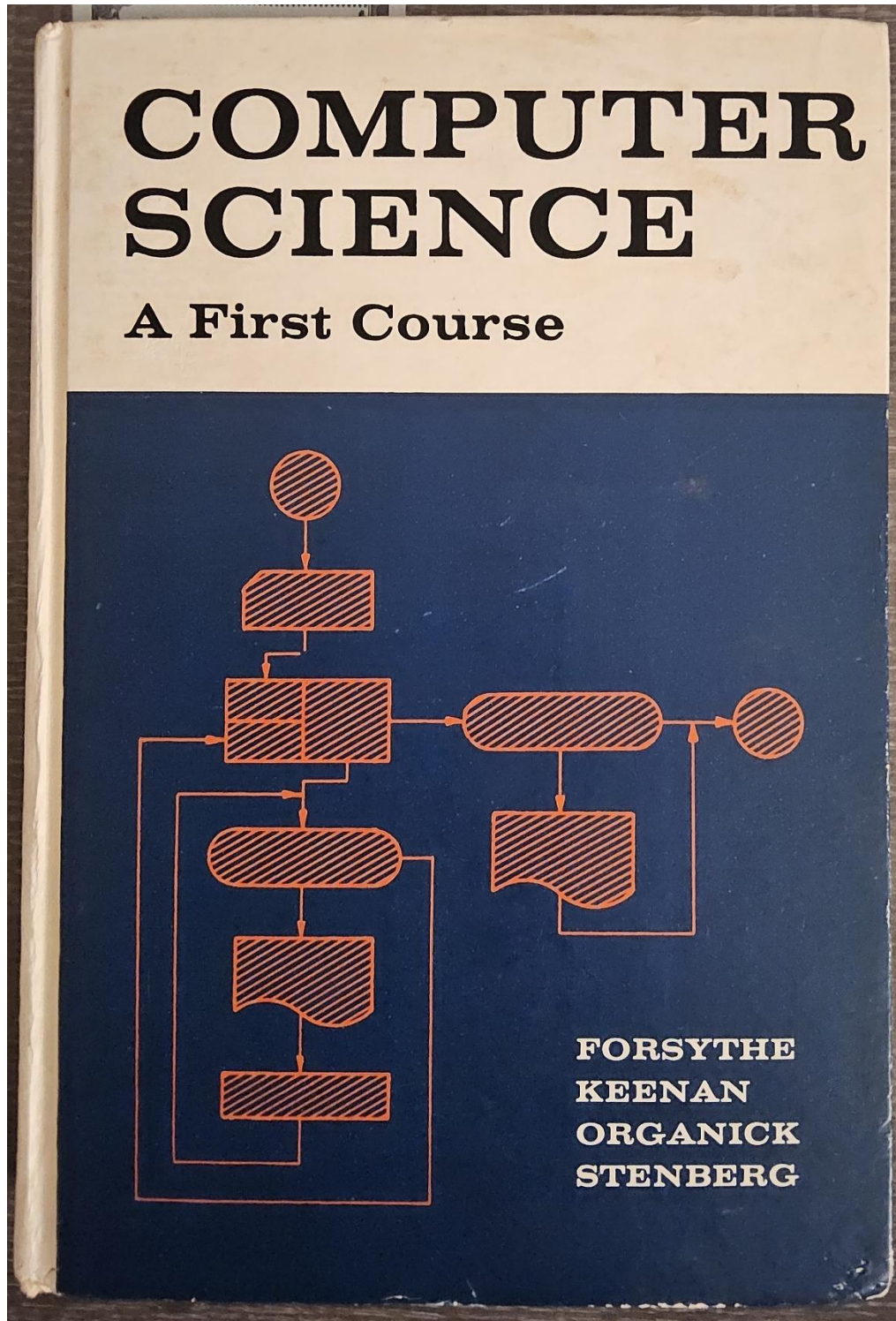


Later, I added two table legs to the floating desk for structural rigidity and my sanity. The original mirror I was using was too small, so I bought a bigger one. Next, I will add some small floating shelves around the mirror, which hopefully will resemble a hutch. I'll also hide the wires near the desk. I might add some floating shelves underneath the tabletop as well. The new mirror has different 3 different light settings at the push of a button.

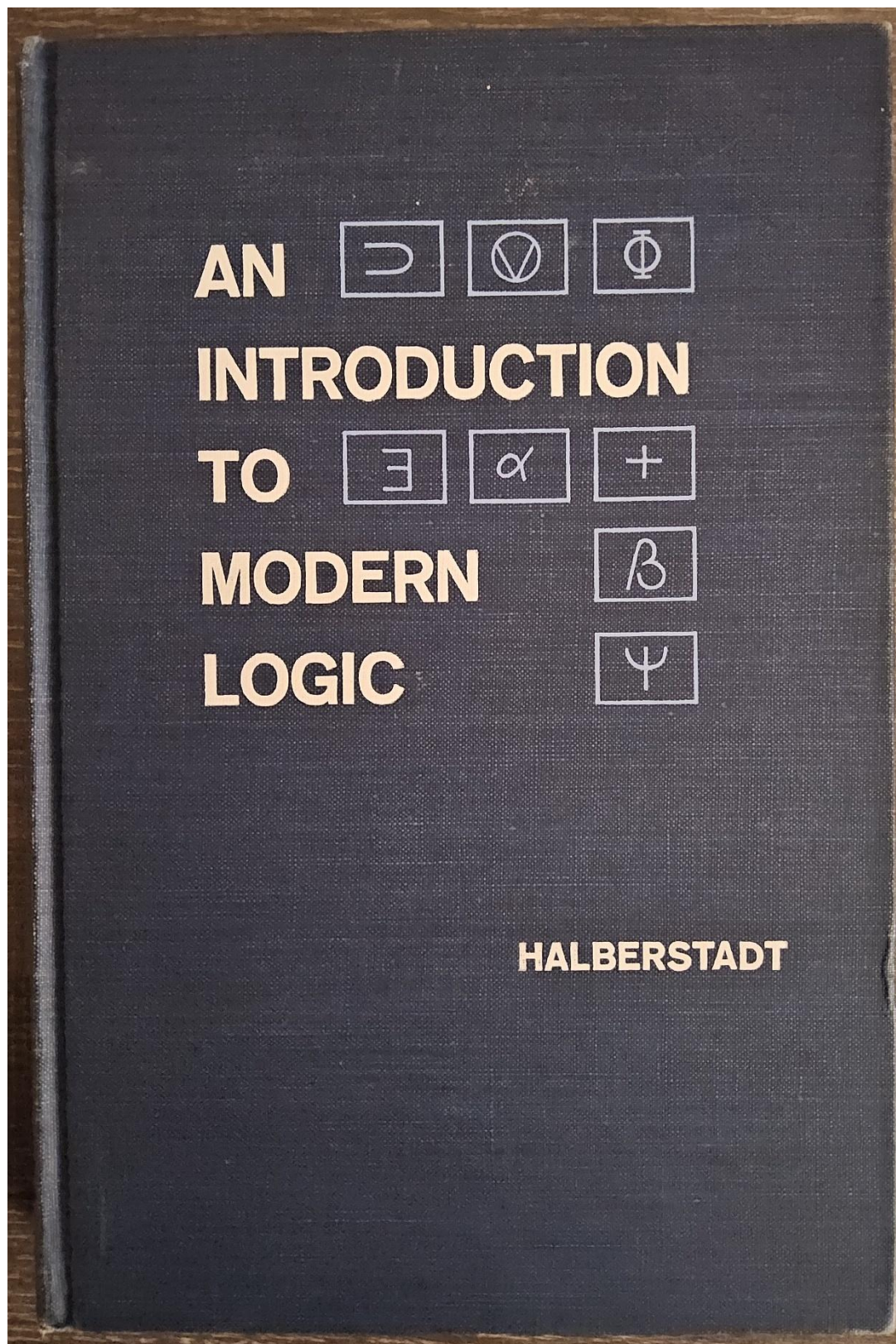


Vintage Textbooks

I bought a copy of what is believed to be the first computer science textbook, which was published in 1969. My guess is that it's clearer and more concise than any new textbook on the market.



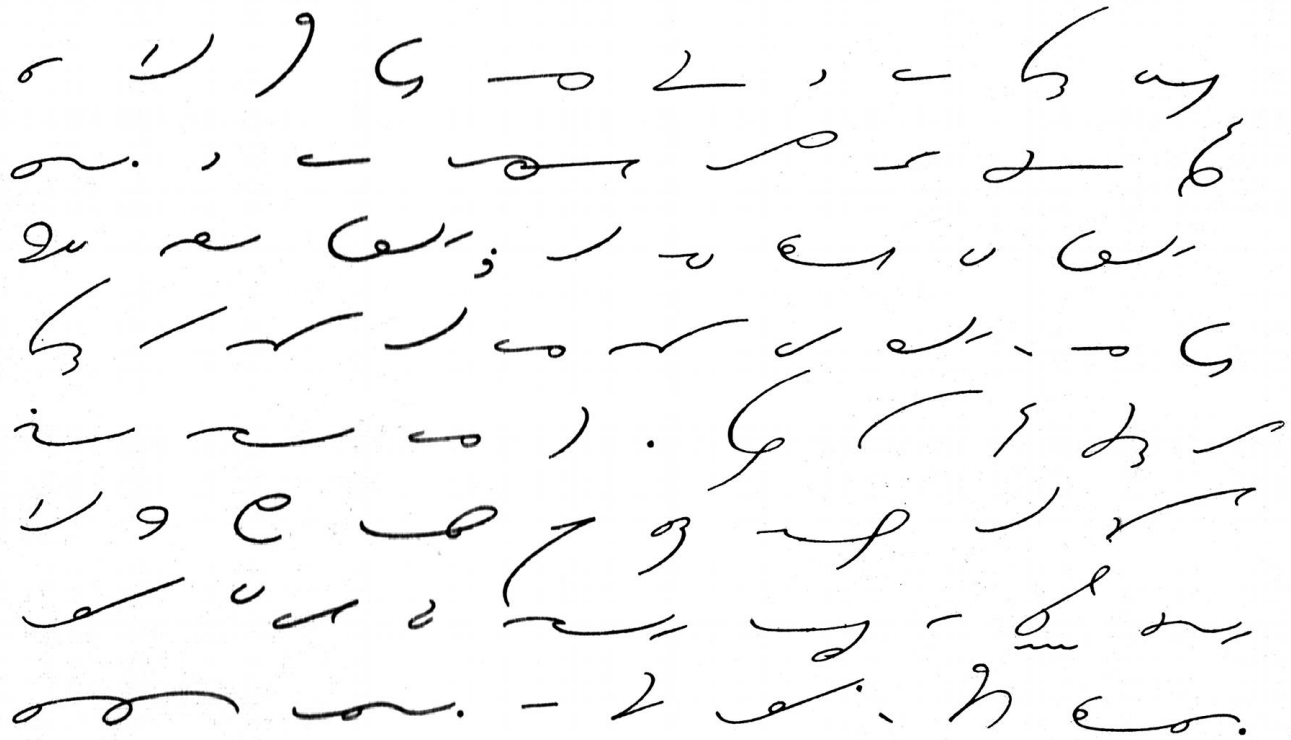
I also bought a vintage textbook on logic. I remember learning logic at Northwest Vista College when I was transitioning from 7th to 8th grade, while enrolled in the Prefreshman Engineering Program (PREP). I really enjoyed the class. I wish I completed all three years of PREP.



Gregg Shorthand and Stenography

I've been thinking about learning Gregg Shorthand for years, just as a mental exercise. Here's a glimpse of what it looks like*. It's a very popular shorthand. Many books have been written about it. And many people once learned it. It's intelligible (readable) and doesn't seem too difficult to learn.

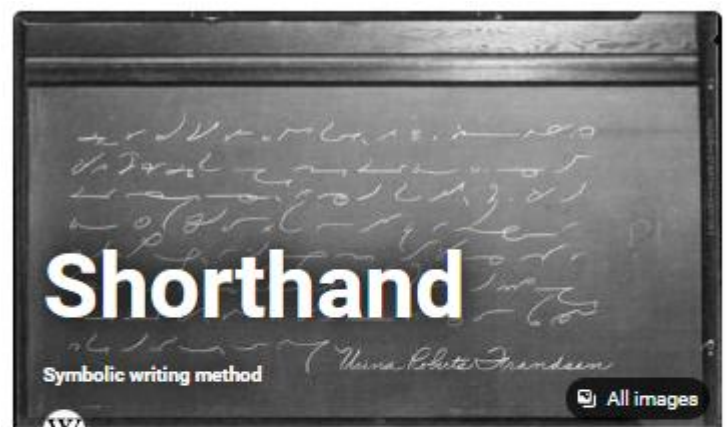
*I have no idea what the shorthand below means, but I'm sure it's readable. Hopefully, a terrorist did not write it.



But I'm not sure if it's worth my time, though.

What might be a better alternative is to learn how to use a modern steno keyboard, like the ones that courtroom reporters use. They still use them. And the courtroom reporters still beat AI at transcribing.

I think I have a minor obsession with language arts.



Shorthand is an abbreviated symbolic writing method that increases speed and brevity of writing as compared to longhand, a more common method of writing a language. The process of writing in shorthand is called stenography, from the Greek *stenos* and *graphein*. It has also been called brachygraphy, from Greek *brachys* (short), and tachygraphy, from Greek *tachys*, depending on whether compression or speed of writing is the goal.

[Wikipedia](#)

Anything for a Beautiful Jew

I met a beautiful Jewish woman online who asked me (and others) to contribute a new word to, The Dictionary of the Future.

[The Dictionary of the Future | THE MUSEUM OF IDEAS](#)

1. Word
2. Phonetic pronunciation
3. Part of Speech
4. Meaning of Word
5. Use the word in a sentence

Here's the word I contributed:

1. Scimonoce
2. /'saɪ-mɒn-uːs/
'saɪ – "sci" sounds like "sigh" or "sci" in "science."
mɒn – "mon" sounds like "mon" in "mundane" or "monopoly."
uːs – "oce" sounds like the "oose" in "noose."
3. Adjective
4. An economic idea that seems politically motivated and intentionally esoteric.
5. The Federal Reserve responded to the financial crisis with scimonoce arguments and policy proposals.

Note: I had ChatGPT help me with the phonetic pronunciation — I told it how I wanted the word to sound, and it provided the pronunciation using the International Phonetic Alphabet. Also, if you read the word from right to left, it spells *economics*. I got the idea for the word while listening to Jerome Powell speak (online) at the 2024 New York Times DealBook Summit. The interviewer asked Powell to demonstrate his special talent; apparently, he can see words in his head spelled forwards and backwards (and pronounce words spelled backwards). He gave one example word, "ymonoce," which is the word economy spelled backwards. The word scimonoce likely doesn't have word roots that align with its definition, which is an ode to its meaning as a word that mocks "respectable" ideas and conventions. By the way, I looked up the word scimonoce online, and it turns out that there is a software company called Scimonoce Software, so I guess Powell and I were not the first to appreciate scimonoce.

With Love,

Vincent

52-2024-12-25-WED