

A Note on Becoming Proficient in a New Skill*

Learning a new skill is a lot like moving to a new city. When you first get there, you have no idea where anything important is. So you take a tour. The tour-guide will show you important landmarks and how to get your bearings – but you’ll never learn where everything is by taking a tour or two. To become good at a skill, you need to know where all the shortcuts are, where all the best hole-in-the-wall restaurants are. Point being, you need to explore the landscape on your own after you take your tour.

The key is *active* learning. I try to make the class as interactive as possible, but you will not reap all the benefits if you don’t explore a bit on your own. Free and official SAT prep that adjusts itself to your skill level is available at [khanacademy.org](https://www.khanacademy.org); The topic for each of the math handouts I give you is gathered from this site. The sections for the writing handouts are also based on the writing practice.

*Adapted from a video by Professor Norman J. Wildberger. Available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CRwfoyd1v_8