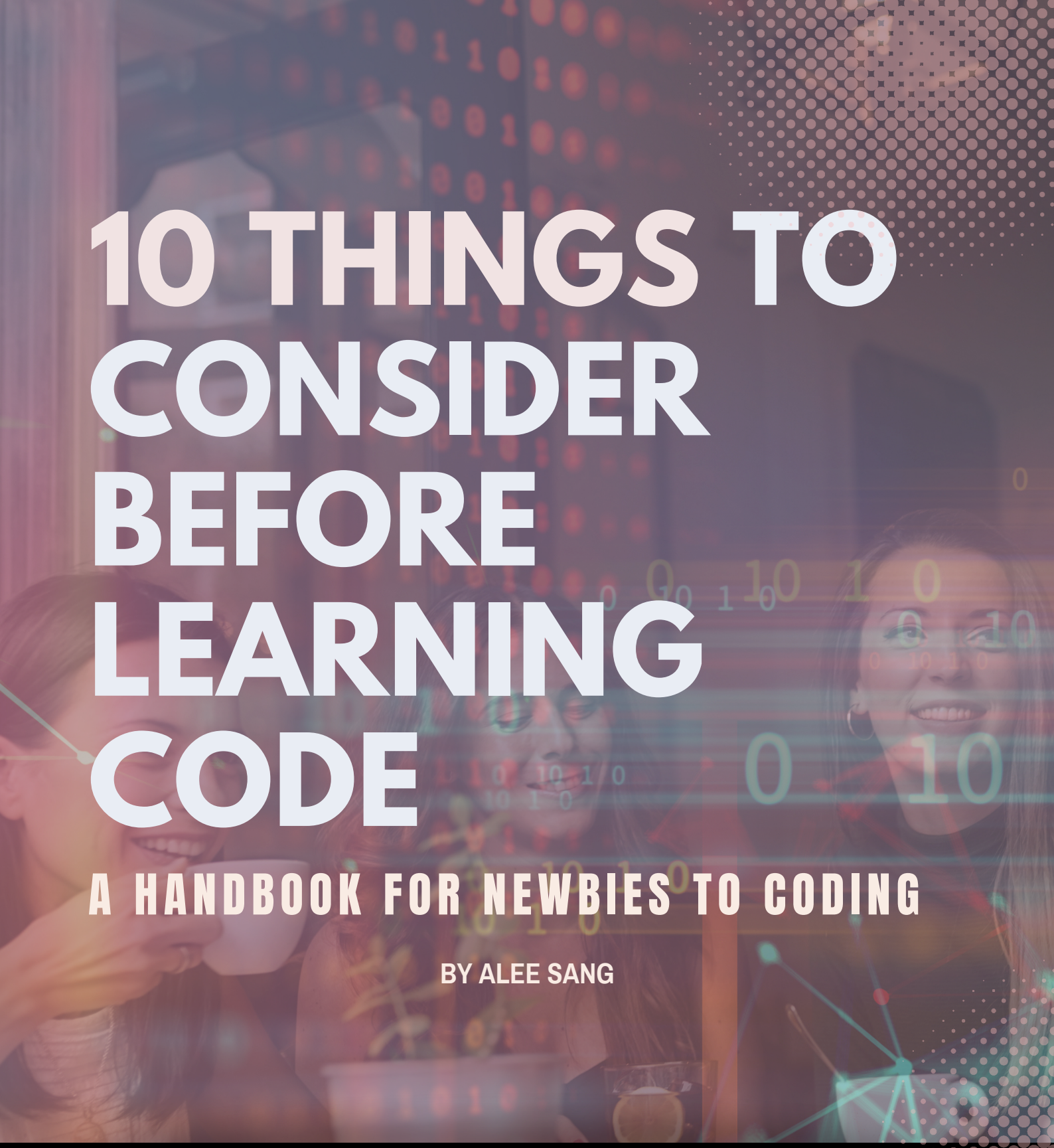


10 THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE LEARNING CODE

A HANDBOOK FOR NEWBIES TO CODING

BY ALEE SANG

< / > CODING SESSIONS

www.thecodingsessions.com.au

GETTING STARTED

Hey! I'm Alee, owner of **The Coding Sessions**! And if you're here reading this right now, chances are you want to learn how to code. Well, you've come to the right place!

I know that learning code is not as straight-forward and linear as one would expect. However, what I will provide you with are some tips and guidance on what to consider, before diving in head first and learning how to code.

I have designed this guide to be as simple and practical as possible so you can apply these tips to your own work flow. I hope these will help you with deciding on whether a career in coding is the right path for you.

So, are you ready?

I've lined up 10 things you would need to think about, before you learn how to code. Ready? Let's go!

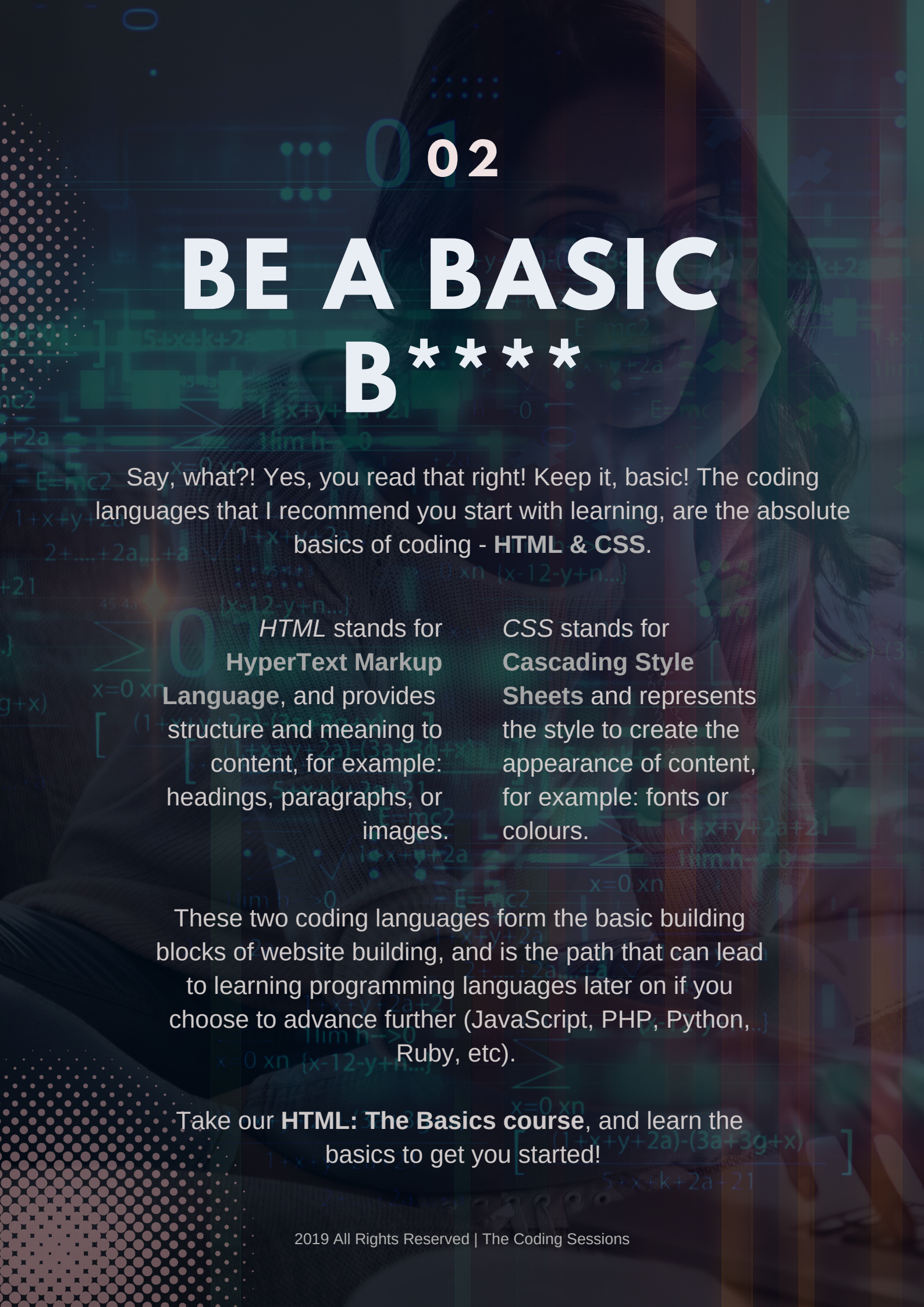
01

WHAT'S YOUR WHY?

What do we mean, you ask? Well, what's your reason for wanting to learn code? Is it for the money? Do you want to work for NASA or Microsoft? Do you want to be a Freelancer? Do you want to build the next Facebook or Instagram?

When it comes to anything in life, when you have a goal to achieve something, there is *always a reason why* behind your goal. So really sit and think about **why** you want to learn code. Because it's not the easiest skill to learn, but is certainly more rewarding once you have grasped an understanding of coding!

Defining your why, will determine whether you *move forward, or say thank you, next.*



02

BE A BASIC B****

Say, what?! Yes, you read that right! Keep it, basic! The coding languages that I recommend you start with learning, are the absolute basics of coding - **HTML & CSS**.

HTML stands for **HyperText Markup Language**, and provides structure and meaning to content, for example: headings, paragraphs, or images.

CSS stands for **Cascading Style Sheets** and represents the style to create the appearance of content, for example: fonts or colours.

These two coding languages form the basic building blocks of website building, and is the path that can lead to learning programming languages later on if you choose to advance further (JavaScript, PHP, Python, Ruby, etc).

Take our **HTML: The Basics course**, and learn the basics to get you started!

03

ADOPT THE 4 P'S OF CODING

The Coding Sessions' philosophy of coding are as follows:

PASSION

You *need* to *want* to learn. It's as simple as that. People who have passion to learn code, will want to keep on learning.

PATIENCE

Endure the challenges. Believe us, there will be plenty. But patience is a virtue in the art of coding. Build it, harness it, and use it. Always.

PERSISTENCE

Stick it out. The more you practice, the faster you will learn and the more efficient you become.

PERSEVERANCE

Don't g*ive* up! Whatever you do, keep at it and keep challenging yourself.

04

CREATE A ROUTINE

Yep. A routine is going to be vital in order to help you get in the zone when learning code. This might sound straight-forward, maybe even sound like common sense, BUT trust me, I can tell you first hand that learning something as intricate and equally fascinating as code requires you to create routine, focus and dedication.

Your routine could be setting aside 1-2hours a night before bed, it could be a weekend, could be an hour before work. The habits and routines you have built over time, is going to be of value later down the track on your path to coding.

05

SET MINI GOALS

When you tackle learning something for the first time, it can become overwhelming to know *where*, or *how* to start. I encourage you to start small when it comes to learning code. Set mini goals that are manageable & doable, and work towards achieving those mini goals.

EXAMPLE: FIONA IS LEARNING HTML AND SHE IS TACKLING THE TOPIC OF 'CLASSES'. SHE HAS OUTLINED IN HER SCHEDULE TO LEARN THIS FOR 30 MIN, AND START PRACTICING FOR 30 MIN BY CREATING A MINI PROJECT TO CEMENT THAT LEARNING. SHE HAS SET UP A SCHEDULE TO TACKLE HER TASKS ONE BY ONE, UNTIL SHE HAS ACHIEVED HER GOAL OF BUILDING A ONE PAGE DOCUMENT IN HTML.

Sounds simple, right, but you'd be surprised at how many people try to learn code, don't set a goal, then give up because it got too hard. Start small - this is more doable than trying to set a big goal, then feeling discouraged from continuing because you didn't meet your expectations.

One thing to take from this is - never stop setting those mini goals! As soon as you complete a goal, make another! Keep on going, keep on learning, because this routine allows you to build momentum and maintain your passion.

06

PRACTICE PROBLEM SOLVING

One of the things you will quickly come to learn is, *coding is really solving problems*. All. The. Time.

To be a good problem solver, you need to understand the problem first. And SO many people who try to tackle a coding problem, go right into solution mode, rather than **taking steps** to solve the problem. Lost? Let me explain.

The best way to tackle a coding problem is:

- Understand the problem
- Plan your solution
- Tackle the problem bit, by bit

These steps are the most simplest of ways to get started with problem solving, and it's our preferred method here at The Coding Sessions, to tackling a coding problem. But nothing can come of it, if you don't practice!

07

VIEW THE SOURCE CODE

One of the best ways to familiarise yourself with learning one of the basic coding languages - HTML, is to view the source code of a website, to see how this was put together. (To do this, you right click on the website page you are viewing, and select *View Page Source*)

Once you look at the code, you will no doubt be overwhelmed with what you're looking at - and that is absolutely OK. I am not asking you to decipher what you see, but rather "get used to" looking at what HTML looks like, become familiar with it, and immersing yourself in the language.

When you analyse it, you can see what logic has been applied, and the structure that was used to build out the website, which will honestly help you get a bit of an understanding of what you will be able to learn and build for yourself one day.

08

KEEP LEARNING

Really? More Learning? Yes, dear! Absolutely. Don't ever stop!

In this day and age, technology is a constant evolution, and is ever changing. To keep up with demand, developers have to continuously upgrade their skills by refreshing their knowledge on current coding trends.

As a newbie to the coding world, you will need to understand that you will always be in a state of learning. Even if you have begun to master a particular area of coding, don't rest on your laurels.

The best coders are the ones who continuously learn, continuously practice, and always open to up-levelling their skills to not only stay up to date with technology trends, but to stay on top of their game.

09

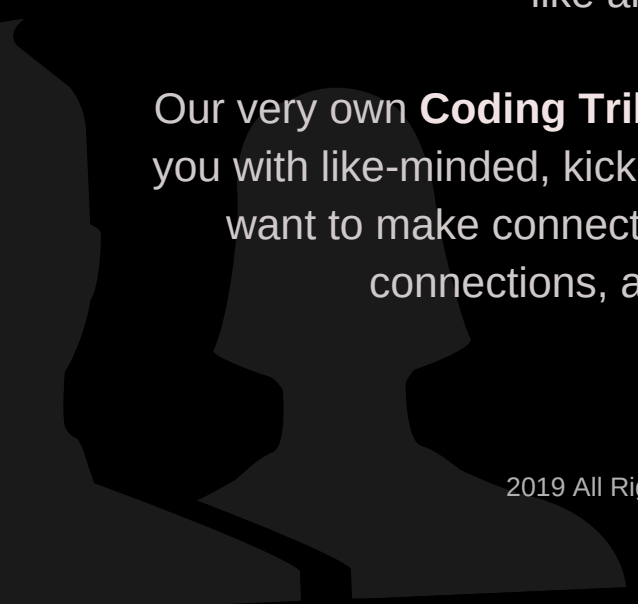
NETWORK AND CONNECT

Girrrrl, coding can get real lonely, real fast. Having people to connect and vibe with, and understand the path you're on, is so important. Not only is it good for morale, but for collaboration and networking.

Finding your coding tribe will allow you to meet people who are in similar fields to you, get to know the coding community, and learn the coding lingo.

Look for Facebook Groups, follow Web Development hashtags on Instagram to discover other Coders to be inspired by. Join Coding forums and find and interact with other users who are on a similar journey to you. Or research Coding Bloggers, and find the ones you like and connect with them.

Our very own **Coding Tribe on Facebook**, is there to help connect you with like-minded, kick-ass females who want to learn code, and want to make connections. Join us over there for some epic connections, and coding tips (it's totally free)!



10

INVEST IN A MENTOR

Ok, hold up! This is totally optional! BUT here are my reasons why I know investing in a mentor will immensely help you on your coding journey.

- Provide unlimited support and guidance on your coding path.
- Keep you accountable, and help you stay on track.
- Tailor suitable solutions to find the fastest path for you to achieve your goals.
- Will challenge you, have your back and guide you every step of the way.

Having a coding mentor is a rewarding experience, and is one of the most effective ways to help with your coding journey. I can vouch, as I have my own coding mentor. A mentor ensures you're constantly expanding your skillset, and having someone to turn to for advice and feedback, can make all the difference.

Check our **1:1 Mentorship Program** to see if this is the right fit for you.

BONUS

BUILD A DEVELOPER KIT

I can't help myself! I want to help you on your journey as much as I can, so I am sharing with you a bonus tip to consider!

Every new coder needs to start a Developer's Toolkit that contains a plethora of resources and tools that you would need in order to prepare you for all the coding knowledge you're going to absorb. As a newbie, you won't know where to start! But, I got you ;)

Buckle up! Here are three of our essentials to get you started!

- **https://github.com -** Git is a Version Control System, and the preferred system for Web Developers to store file changes more efficiently. GitHub is simply a place where developers can store their projects and connect with like-minded people. (We explore this more in our **Build a Website from Scratch** course**).**

- **https://code.visualstudio.com -** Visual Studio Code is a free and open source Text Editor that we use here at The Coding Sessions. It is our preferred Text Editor to use in our courses. Put simply, it allows you to compile code easily, and extensions you can download to make it easier and helpful when writing your code. (We explore this more in our **Build a Website from Scratch** course**).**

- **https://search.google.com/test/mobile-friendly** - Building a website these days will mean it needs to be responsive and mobile friendly. Use Google's own Mobile Friendly Test tool to always check that your website is mobile friendly.

WHERE TO, NEXT?

We hope this guide gave you some things to consider before embarking on your coding journey!

The only way to truly succeed, is for you to put in the work. There's no fluff, no shortcuts, just pure hard work! And if that scares you, then you're not ready to embark on this path - and that's totally fine!

But if you are ready, willing to learn, open to being vulnerable and challenged - get ready for a crazy, yet amazing ride!

Join our community on Facebook to connect with other like-minded girls, ready to step into the world of coding:
https://www.facebook.com/groups/thecodingsessions

Sign up to our Introduction to HTML course here:
https://thecodingsessions.teachable.com

Sign up to our Mentorship Program:
https://www.thecodingsessions.com.au/1-1-mentorship.html

GOOD LUCK!

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