

AI-Resistant Skills - Resource List

Curated tools, books, courses, and communities to accelerate your learning



Essential Books

Strategic Thinking

- 1. The McKinsey Way** by Ethan Rasiel - **Why:** Learn the MECE framework and problem-solving methods used by top consultants - **Key chapters:** 1-3 (Problem structuring), 7 (Presenting ideas) - **Time investment:** 6 hours - **Where to buy:** Amazon, Audible
 - 2. The Pyramid Principle** by Barbara Minto - **Why:** Master the art of structuring communication (McKinsey's secret weapon) - **Key chapters:** 1-2 (Logic in writing), 4 (Pyramid structure) - **Time investment:** 8 hours - **Where to buy:** Amazon
 - 3. Good Strategy Bad Strategy** by Richard Rumelt - **Why:** Understand what makes strategy actually work - **Key chapters:** 1-3 (Bad strategy), 4-7 (Good strategy kernel) - **Time investment:** 10 hours - **Where to buy:** Amazon, Audible
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Emotional Intelligence

- 4. Emotional Intelligence 2.0** by Travis Bradberry & Jean Greaves - **Why:** Practical strategies to increase EQ with self-assessment - **Key chapters:** All (it's short and actionable) - **Time investment:** 4 hours - **Where to buy:** Amazon, includes online EQ test
- 5. The Trusted Advisor** by David H. Maister - **Why:** Deep dive into the Trust Equation and building client relationships - **Key chapters:** 3-5 (Trust equation), 11-12 (Earning trust) - **Time investment:** 8 hours - **Where to buy:** Amazon
- 6. Never Split the Difference** by Chris Voss - **Why:** FBI negotiation tactics for reading people and building rapport - **Key chapters:** 1-3 (Mirroring, labeling), 7 (Calibrated questions) - **Time investment:** 7 hours - **Where to buy:** Amazon, Audible

Creative Problem-Solving

7. The Lean Startup by Eric Ries - **Why:** Build-Measure-Learn loop for rapid innovation - **Key chapters:** 3-6 (MVP, validated learning), 8 (Pivot) - **Time investment:** 8 hours - **Where to buy:** Amazon, Audible

8. Creative Confidence by Tom & David Kelley (IDEO) - **Why:** Design Thinking from the creators of the methodology - **Key chapters:** 1-2 (Creative confidence), 4-5 (Design thinking process) - **Time investment:** 7 hours - **Where to buy:** Amazon

9. Sprint by Jake Knapp (Google Ventures) - **Why:** Google's 5-day process for solving big problems - **Key chapters:** Monday-Friday (the entire sprint process) - **Time investment:** 6 hours - **Where to buy:** Amazon, Audible

Ethical Leadership

10. The Infinite Game by Simon Sinek - **Why:** Think long-term and build purpose-driven organizations - **Key chapters:** 1-3 (Finite vs infinite), 5 (Trusting teams) - **Time investment:** 8 hours - **Where to buy:** Amazon, Audible

11. Dare to Lead by Brené Brown - **Why:** Vulnerability and psychological safety in leadership - **Key chapters:** 1-2 (Brave leadership), 3 (Rumbling with vulnerability) - **Time investment:** 9 hours - **Where to buy:** Amazon, Audible

12. The Culture Code by Daniel Coyle - **Why:** How high-performing teams build psychological safety - **Key chapters:** Skill 1 (Safety), Skill 2 (Vulnerability), Skill 3 (Purpose) - **Time investment:** 7 hours - **Where to buy:** Amazon, Audible

Adaptive Learning

13. Ultralearning by Scott Young - **Why:** Master the art of rapid skill acquisition - **Key chapters:** 1-3 (Principles), 6-7 (Directness, Drilling) - **Time investment:** 8 hours - **Where to buy:** Amazon, Audible

14. Peak by Anders Ericsson - **Why:** The science of deliberate practice from the researcher who discovered it - **Key chapters:** 1-3 (Deliberate practice), 7-8 (Becoming expert) - **Time investment:** 10 hours - **Where to buy:** Amazon, Audible

15. Make It Stick by Peter C. Brown - **Why:** Evidence-based learning techniques that actually work - **Key chapters:** 1-4 (Retrieval, spacing, interleaving) - **Time investment:** 7 hours - **Where to buy:** Amazon

Tools & Software

Strategic Thinking Tools

Miro (<https://miro.com>) - **Use for:** MECE breakdowns, problem mapping, visual thinking - **Cost:** Free for 3 boards, \$8/month for unlimited - **Templates:** MECE framework, 5 Whys, Strategy canvas

Notion (<https://notion.so>) - **Use for:** Strategic planning, documentation, knowledge management - **Cost:** Free for personal use - **Templates:** Strategy docs, MECE templates, decision logs

Lucidchart (<https://lucidchart.com>) - **Use for:** Process mapping, org charts, strategic diagrams - **Cost:** Free for 3 documents, \$7.95/month for more - **Templates:** Pyramid principle, strategy maps

Emotional Intelligence Tools

Crystal (<https://crystalknows.com>) - **Use for:** Personality insights for better communication - **Cost:** Free basic, \$49/month for teams - **Value:** Predicts how to communicate with anyone

Calendly (<https://calendly.com>) - **Use for:** Reliability - always be on time for meetings - **Cost:** Free for basic, \$8/month for professional - **Value:** Shows you're organized and reliable

Grammarly (<https://grammarly.com>) - **Use for:** Professional communication (increases credibility) - **Cost:** Free for basic, \$12/month for premium - **Value:** Ensures clear, error-free communication

Creative Problem-Solving Tools

Figma (<https://figma.com>) - **Use for:** Rapid prototyping, design thinking, visual collaboration - **Cost:** Free for 3 projects, \$12/month for unlimited - **Templates:** Design thinking canvas, user journey maps

Mural (<https://mural.co>) - **Use for:** Virtual brainstorming, ideation sessions - **Cost:** Free for 3 murals, \$9.99/month for unlimited - **Templates:** Design thinking, brainstorming, affinity mapping

UserTesting (<https://usertesting.com>) - **Use for:** Get real user feedback on prototypes - **Cost:** Pay per test (~\$49/test) - **Value:** Validate ideas before building

Leadership & Learning Tools

Slack (<https://slack.com>) - **Use for:** Team communication, psychological safety - **Cost:** Free for small teams, \$6.67/month for standard - **Value:** Build transparent, safe communication

Loom (<https://loom.com>) - **Use for:** Teaching others (Feynman Technique via video) - **Cost:** Free for 25 videos, \$8/month for unlimited - **Value:** Teach asynchronously, scale your impact

Anki (<https://apps.ankiweb.net>) - **Use for:** Spaced repetition learning (remember everything) - **Cost:** Free (iOS: \$24.99 one-time) - **Value:** Never forget what you learn

Online Courses & Programs

Strategic Thinking

McKinsey Problem Solving (Coursera) - **Link:** <https://coursera.org/learn/mckinsey-problem-solving> - **Cost:** \$49/month (7-day free trial) - **Duration:** 4 weeks - **Value:** Learn from actual McKinsey consultants

Strategic Thinking (LinkedIn Learning) - **Link:** <https://linkedin.com/learning/strategic-thinking> - **Cost:** \$29.99/month (1-month free trial) - **Duration:** 2 hours - **Value:** Quick, practical strategic frameworks

Emotional Intelligence

Improving Your Emotional Intelligence (Coursera) - **Link:** <https://coursera.org/learn/emotional-intelligence> - **Cost:** \$49/month (7-day free trial) - **Duration:** 4 weeks - **Value:** University of Michigan program

Emotional Intelligence at Work (LinkedIn Learning) - **Link:** <https://linkedin.com/learning/emotional-intelligence-at-work> - **Cost:** \$29.99/month (1-month free trial) - **Duration:** 1.5 hours - **Value:** Practical workplace EQ skills

Creative Problem-Solving

Design Thinking (IDEO U) - **Link:** <https://ideou.com/products/design-thinking> - **Cost:** \$599 (self-paced) - **Duration:** 6 weeks - **Value:** Learn from IDEO, the creators of Design Thinking

Innovation Through Design (Coursera) - **Link:** <https://coursera.org/learn/innovation-through-design> - **Cost:** \$49/month (7-day free trial) - **Duration:** 5 weeks - **Value:** University of Sydney program

Leadership

Inclusive Leadership (Coursera) - **Link:** <https://coursera.org/learn/inclusive-leadership> - **Cost:** \$49/month (7-day free trial) - **Duration:** 4 weeks - **Value:** Build psychological safety

Leading People and Teams (Coursera) - **Link:** <https://coursera.org/specializations/leading-teams> - **Cost:** \$49/month (7-day free trial) - **Duration:** 3 months - **Value:** University of Michigan specialization

Learning How to Learn

Learning How to Learn (Coursera) - **Link:** <https://coursera.org/learn/learning-how-to-learn> - **Cost:** Free (certificate: \$49) - **Duration:** 4 weeks - **Value:** Most popular course on Coursera, 4M+ students

Mindshift (Coursera) - **Link:** <https://coursera.org/learn/mindshift> - **Cost:** Free (certificate: \$49) - **Duration:** 4 weeks - **Value:** Career transformation through learning

Communities & Networks

Professional Communities

Million Dollar Blueprint Community (Coming Soon) - **Platform:** Discord/Circle - **Cost:** Included with course - **Value:** Connect with other students, share wins, get feedback

Reforge (<https://reforge.com>) - **Focus:** Product, growth, marketing for tech professionals - **Cost:** \$1,995/year - **Value:** High-caliber peer network, expert-led programs

OnDeck (<https://beondeck.com>) - **Focus:** Various fellowships (founders, writers, angels, etc.) - **Cost:** 500—2,500 per fellowship - **Value:** Elite peer cohorts, lifelong network

Learning Communities

Indie Hackers (<https://indiehackers.com>) - **Focus:** Entrepreneurs building profitable businesses - **Cost:** Free - **Value:** Learn from others building real businesses

Hacker News (<https://news.ycombinator.com>) - **Focus:** Tech, startups, innovation - **Cost:** Free - **Value:** Stay current on trends, thoughtful discussions

Reddit - r/consulting (<https://reddit.com/r/consulting>) - **Focus:** Consulting industry insights and advice - **Cost:** Free - **Value:** Real consultants sharing frameworks and experiences

Leadership Communities

Chief (<https://chief.com>) - **Focus:** Women executives (VP+) - **Cost:** \$7,900/year - **Value:** Peer groups, executive coaching

YPO (Young Presidents' Organization) (<https://ypo.org>) - **Focus:** CEOs and business leaders - **Cost:** 10,000–30,000/year (varies by chapter) - **Value:** Peer learning, global network



Podcasts

Strategic Thinking

The McKinsey Podcast - **Link:** <https://mckinsey.com/featured-insights/mckinsey-podcast> - **Why:** Insights from McKinsey consultants and clients - **Frequency:** Weekly

Masters of Scale (Reid Hoffman) - **Link:** <https://mastersofscale.com> - **Why:** How companies scale from startup to global - **Frequency:** Weekly

Emotional Intelligence

WorkLife with Adam Grant - **Link:** <https://ted.com/podcasts/worklife> - **Why:** Organizational psychology and workplace dynamics - **Frequency:** Seasonal

The Tony Robbins Podcast - **Link:** <https://tonyrobbins.com/podcast> - **Why:** Personal development, peak performance, relationships - **Frequency:** Weekly

Innovation & Leadership

How I Built This (Guy Raz) - **Link:** <https://npr.org/podcasts/510313/how-i-built-this> - **Why:** Founder stories, innovation, problem-solving - **Frequency:** Weekly

The Tim Ferriss Show - **Link:** <https://tim.blog/podcast> - **Why:** World-class performers deconstructing their success - **Frequency:** 2x/week



Assessment Tools

Skill Assessments

EQ-i 2.0 (Emotional Intelligence) - **Link:** <https://mhs.com/eqi> - **Cost:** 50—100 - **Value:** Professional EQ assessment with detailed report

CliftonStrengths (Gallup) - **Link:** <https://gallup.com/cliftonstrengths> - **Cost:** \$49.99 - **Value:** Identify your top 5 strengths

DISC Assessment - **Link:** <https://discprofile.com> - **Cost:** 29—99 - **Value:** Understand your communication style

Career & Skill Gap Analysis

LinkedIn Skill Assessments - **Link:** <https://linkedin.com/skills-assessments> - **Cost:** Free - **Value:** Validate skills, show on profile

Coursera Skill Assessments - **Link:** <https://coursera.org> - **Cost:** Free - **Value:** Identify learning gaps



Consulting Firms to Study

Learn from the best by studying their frameworks:

McKinsey & Company - **Website:** <https://mckinsey.com> - **Free resources:** McKinsey Quarterly, podcasts, articles - **Frameworks to study:** MECE, Pyramid Principle, 7S Framework

Boston Consulting Group (BCG) - **Website:** <https://bcg.com> - **Free resources:** BCG Henderson Institute, articles - **Frameworks to study:** Growth-Share Matrix, Advantage Matrix

Bain & Company - **Website:** <https://bain.com> - **Free resources:** Bain Insights, Management Tools - **Frameworks to study:** Net Promoter Score, Repeatable Models

How to Use This Resource List

Week 1-4: Foundation

- ☐ Read: "The McKinsey Way" + "Emotional Intelligence 2.0"
- ☐ Set up: Notion, Miro, Calendly
- ☐ Take: EQ-i 2.0 assessment
- ☐ Join: Million Dollar Blueprint Community

Week 5-8: Skill Building

- ☐ Read: "The Lean Startup" + "Dare to Lead"
- ☐ Complete: "Learning How to Learn" (Coursera)
- ☐ Set up: Figma, Loom
- ☐ Listen: 2 podcasts per week

Week 9-12: Mastery

- ☐ Read: "Ultralearning" + "The Culture Code"
 - ☐ Complete: One specialized course in weakest skill
 - ☐ Join: One professional community
 - ☐ Teach: Share learnings with team
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Notes

Track which resources you've used and rate them:

Books completed: 1. ____ (Rating: **/10**) 2. ____ (**Rating:** /10) 3. ____ (Rating: ____/10)

Courses completed: 1. ____ (Rating: **/10**) 2. ____ (**Rating:** /10)

Tools actively using: 1. ____ (Value: **/10**) 2. ____ (**Value:** /10) 3. ____ (Value: ____/10)

Communities joined: 1. ____ (Engagement: **/10**) 2. ____ (**Engagement:** /10)

Remember: You don't need all these resources. Start with the essentials, then add more as you progress. Focus on implementation over consumption.

Million Dollar Blueprint - AI-Resistant Skills Resource List