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TOPIC: Instruction Sets

I have lived alone for the past four years and my family lives in a different country with a different timezone. When I need to do something I am unfamiliar with, I usually do not have anyone to turn to so I ask Google for help. I have probably read hundreds of online instruction sets, such as recipes, how to assemble a bookshelf, etc. There have been a couple of instruction sets that have made me feel frustrated. At the time, I could not pinpoint why. After this week’s lesson, I realized that it was because some of the instructions are very unclear. It made me feel annoyed that I wasted my time trying to understand them. I thought it was me that was the problem. Now I realized it was their way of writing.

Learning how to properly write instructions is a skill that most people overlook. One may think that writing instructions are simple and straightforward, but when one is writing a technical instruction for an audience with very limited technical background, it can be a bit challenging.

It can be especially challenging for us, future programmers, because the style and standard for writing codes can be very different for every individual, team, or company. It is very important to leave no room for misinterpretation. If that happens, it could lead to having to rewrite the entire program, which could take months, or even years depending on the size of the program and the amount of code that needs to be rewritten.