In the past, classmates have given very constructive criticism. For me, it helps to know specifically what I am doing wrong instead of the criticism just being vague and not helpful. When I can pinpoint an error or critique, it is much easier for me to begin looking at solutions. Oftentimes, it is difficult to give feedback without sounding overly critical, so being polite and objective with criticisms is what separates okay criticism from great feedback.

When giving feedback to someone who is learning to do something, it is important to remember that they can still be sensitive to criticism. Being in the unknowns of learning can be scary and it does not help whenever someone doesn’t have patience or gives overly critical responses. I have found it is safest to tell the person a lot of what they are doing right and then sneak in some “Oh you could be doing this better…” in a form of complement sandwich so as to not discourage them from further learning.

Giving and receiving feedback plays a large role in learning because learning happens the most effectively when you can look at your mistakes and what makes them mistakes. You learn far more by making a lot of errors and seeing why you made them as opposed to getting everything right on the first try. Feedback can help a lot in this process as long as the person giving the feedback remains positive and reassuring. At its best, great critical feedback can help you find errors, show you how to correct them, and even to explain why the errors happened in the first place which is an excellent way to learn.