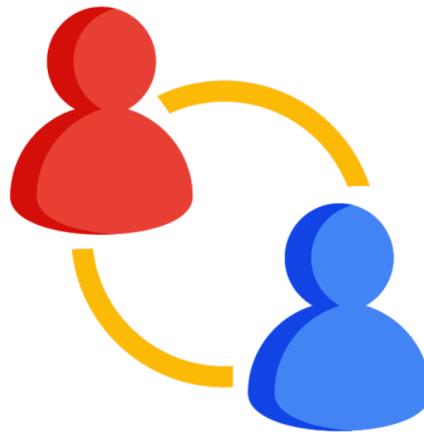# Develop a network

In this reading, you will be introduced to online and in-person opportunities to connect with other data analysts. This is part of how you develop professional relationships, which is very important when you are just starting out in your career

Online connections

If you spend a few hours on social media every day you might be totally comfortable connecting with other data analysts online. But, where should you look if you don't know any data analysts?

Even if you aren't on social media and just created your LinkedIn profile yesterday, you can still use your online presence to find and network with other data analysts.

Knowing where to look is key. Here are some suggestions on where to start online:

- **Subscriptions** to newsletters like Data Elixir ⤢. Not only will this give you a treasure trove of useful information on a regular basis, but you will also learn the names of data science experts who you can follow, or possibly even connect with if you have good reason to.

- **Hackathons** (competitions) like those sponsored by Kaggle ⤢, one of the largest data science and machine learning communities in the world. Participating in a hackathon might not be for everyone. But after joining a community, you typically have access to forums where you can chat and connect with other data analysts.

- **Meetups**, or online meetings that are usually local to your geography. Enter a search for 'data science meetups near me' to see what results you get. There is usually a posted schedule for