<http://link.lizabolton.com/reprex>

Before we get started, you can access these slides at link.lizabolton.com/reprex and toggle between slide and tile view with your ‘o’ key. White background slides are in ‘teaching world’ and I’ll ask you to put your student hats and play along, while purple slides form an intro and outro.

I’ve outlined assumptions I am making in designing this talk, namely that this is for early in a third year Data Science course where students have reasonable exposure to R & RStudio, and the course has a focus on professional practice for Data Scientists, especially communication and collaboration. I think this could work quite well in a course like STATS 369 which I am currently teaching the first half of.

I’ve outlined the learning outcomes, as well, but let’s move along. Please put your student hats on and get ready to interact like this is a 2020 Zoom class.

So far we’ve talked about the importance of communication skills in your data science toolbox, and specifically looked at Git and GitHub for version control and collaboration. I hope you’re starting to see that your learning and progress as data scientists isn’t in isolation, but supported on all sides. I love this cartoon from Allison Horst — it really captures it well.

As you go forward in your education and career, you will continue to learn new functions, if not whole new languages. A key to success in this is how you ask for help with code.

Who’s seen discussion boards online like StackOverflow or the R community page. <LOOK AT CAMERAS> They’re often the top results when you Google an error code. My first experience on one of these was asking for help when I was an undergrad, trying to learn Javascript for a summer research scholarship. I had no idea how to ask for help in ways that would make it easy for others to help me. It looked a lot like this.

<GET HELP>

If only I had known about reproducible examples.

Shortened to ‘reprex’, at the core it is a example someone else could reproduce.

Specifically, it is a minimal example needed for someone helping you to reproduce an error or other behaviour you would like them to recreate on their own machine.

One note, reprex can also mean the package, that we’ll be talking about in a moment and a function within that package.

Being able to create reproducible examples is a useful professional skill that is transferable to other programming languages. It is also going to be useful to you now, in this class when it comes to helping us help you on our Ed Discussion board.

And, I think perhaps most importantly, the process of preparing a reprex forces you to think about your code in a specific way that can help you spot and fix your own problem.