

SELF RESCUE FAQs

In my opinion, the most important skill that can be developed in a classroom environment like this is an ability to “self-rescue” from compile errors, or when encountering code that you’ve never seen before and don’t recognize.

FAQs:

“What does _____ mean? I’ve never seen that before!”

Step 1) Google _____

Step 2) If nothing on the first or second page answers your question: try here next:

<http://www.mathworks.com/help/matlab/>

Step 3) If neither Google or Mathworks Documentation has the answer to your question, it’s probably time to break out the big guns:

https://www.mathworks.com/matlabcentral/answers/index?s_tid=mlc_an_ask

<http://stackoverflow.com/questions/tagged/matlab>

(Be patient! None of the people who answer these questions are being paid to help so be polite, respectful, and appreciative for best results. Even then, **an answer can take several hours or even days.** I would advise against re-posting the same question multiple times unless several days have passed since the first time the question was asked AND that question has dropped off the front page)

Note: These sorts of communities can be profoundly helpful when you have a well-researched question. Poorly researched questions are the reason why many people get discouraged by the hostile responses they receive in community support forums.

“I just got a compile/execution error that says _____! What does that mean? I’ve never seen this error before!”

Step 1) Google _____

If you get no results: you may need to cut out some superfluous details from the error. These might include non-application file path details such as:

“C:/users/Bobby/Desktop/FlappyBirdInMATLAB/flappybird.m”

If you get an error that makes reference to a .dll for instance: you might trim out the file path but leave the .dll file in the search term.

Recognizing which information is superfluous takes practice through trial and error.

Step 2) If you are still not finding any results(EXTREMELY uncommon) then at that point it’s time to break out the big guns:

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