

# be\_pragmatic( ): Principles to Improve Work and Life

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What are your pragmatic solutions?



## Outline

- Where to aim philosophically

# From principles to actions

Where to aim.

- ▶ Principles are guiding propositions, not rules.

Do you think beyond the immediate problem?

*Solve problems with special Attitude, style, philosophy*



# How to actually get there

- ▶ Examples illustrate principles, they are not recipes

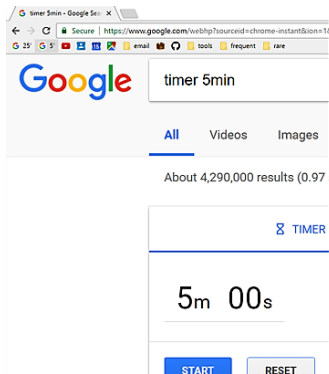
Do you invest in future-you?

**If it's cost-effective, Don't Repeat Yourself (DRY)**

Example: use email's search operators and save (bookmarks).

The screenshot shows a Gmail search results page. The search bar contains the query `is:unread newer_than:1d`. A dropdown menu is open, showing suggestions for search operators: `today, to star useful`, `today, to tag`, `today, to do`, `today, to see tagged`, `today, to delete useless`, `anytime, to do`, `frequent`, and `rare`. The page shows two search results: **YPF SERVICLUB** and **B&H Photo Video Pro Audio**. The left sidebar shows the **COMPOSE** button and the **Inbox (4)** count. The bottom of the page shows storage usage: **5.5 GB (36%) of 15 GB used** and links to **Terms - Privacy**.

**WHAT** you did is obvious. Document **WHY** you did it.



Next: Applications in research

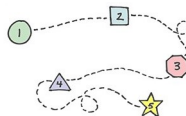
[github.com/maurolepore/slides](https://github.com/maurolepore/slides)

# Applications in research

Do you work around energy or time?

The 5-step model

1. **gather material**,
2. **work intensely** over the material in your mind,
3. **step away** from the problem,
4. **LET IDEAS RETURN NATURALLY**,
5. **test and adjust** your idea based on feedback.



(The secret of the most productive R programmer.)

When do you usually say *AHA!*?

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## Questions, answers & feedback

If you can, please give me some feedback. (But you are of course excused if you decide not to do so.) For example, what you liked and disliked the most?

[github.com/maurolepore/slides](https://github.com/maurolepore/slides)

## Previous feedback

2017-01-19, audience

Feedback came from the audience in the form of a discussion. This comment develops the *AHA* I had this morning while showering (see *AHA* in this slide).

A highly successful and experienced researcher from the audience observed that most successful researchers he knows are passionate about science only and they happily devote their lives to it. In contrast, earlier career researchers from the audience observed that they are passionate about science and other things too.

(continues)

2017-01-19, audience (continued)

If some researchers enjoy working to the point that work and fun are the same thing for them, do they have the right to do it? And if some researchers enjoy other things apart from science, do they have the right to share their time among their passions? In my