

Free Websites to Learn Ethical Hacking & Cybersecurity

1. PortSwigger Web Security Academy (Best for Web VAPT)

- Completely free
- Hands-on labs
- Beginner to advanced
- Covers OWASP Top 10

Link: <https://portswigger.net/web-security>

2. TryHackMe – Free Labs

- Free beginner rooms
- Teaches Linux, networking, cyber attacks
- Hands-on exercises

Link: <https://tryhackme.com/>

3. Hack The Box – Free Tier

- Free machines available
- Web, mobile, reversing, forensics
- Realistic pentesting environment

Link: <https://www.hackthebox.com/>

4. HackThisSite

- 100% free
- Classic hacking challenges
- Good for beginners

Link: <https://www.hackthissite.org/>

5. PicoCTF

- Free CTF learning platform
- Beginner friendly
- Learn web, crypto, pwn, forensics

Link: <https://picoctf.org/>

6. OWASP Juice Shop

- Free vulnerable web app
- Learn XSS, SQLi, CSRF, Auth bypass

Link: <https://owasp.org/www-project-juice-shop/>

7. Google Gruyere

- Free vulnerable app by Google
- Learn real-world web attacks

Link: <https://google-gruyere.appspot.com/>

8. WebGoat (OWASP)

- Free insecure web training platform
- Covers OWASP Top 10

Link: <https://owasp.org/www-project-webgoat/>

9. Cybrary (Free Courses)

- SOC basics
- SIEM fundamentals
- Incident response

Link: <https://www.cybrary.it/>

TIPS ON HOW TO LEARN CYBERSECURITY EFFECTIVELY

1. Start Slowly — Don't Jump to Advanced Attacks

Understand basics: HTTP, Burp Suite, Linux, ports, networking.

2. Practice Daily

Even 30 minutes per day is enough if consistent.

3. Solve Labs, Not Just Watch Videos

Hands-on learning builds real skills.

4. Take Notes

Write down:

- Vulnerability name
- How it works
- How to find it
- How to exploit it

These notes will help in interviews.

5. Do the Same Vulnerability on Multiple Platforms

Example:

Try XSS on Juice Shop, then on WebGoat, then on PortSwigger.

This builds mastery.

6. Analyse Writeups Only After Trying

Trying > Failing > Learning > Succeeding.

7. Report Writing is Important

Write small reports after every lab:

- Summary
- Vulnerability
- Impact
- Fix

8. Build a Strong Portfolio

Add:

- TryHackMe badges
- HTB machines
- GitHub notes
- Reports

9. Don't Rush for Certifications

Focus on skills first.

Certifications can come later.

10. Be Patient and Enjoy the Process

Cybersecurity takes time.

Consistency wins.