

exercism.io

One Platform, Three Perspectives

About Me

A photograph of a man with a beard and glasses, looking off to the side. He is wearing a dark shirt with a white geometric pattern on the back. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with trees.

I am 31 years old, started
coding at 24, became a Gopher
about 1 year ago.

I live in Bielefeld, Germany.



Photo by Kevin Bückert on Unsplash

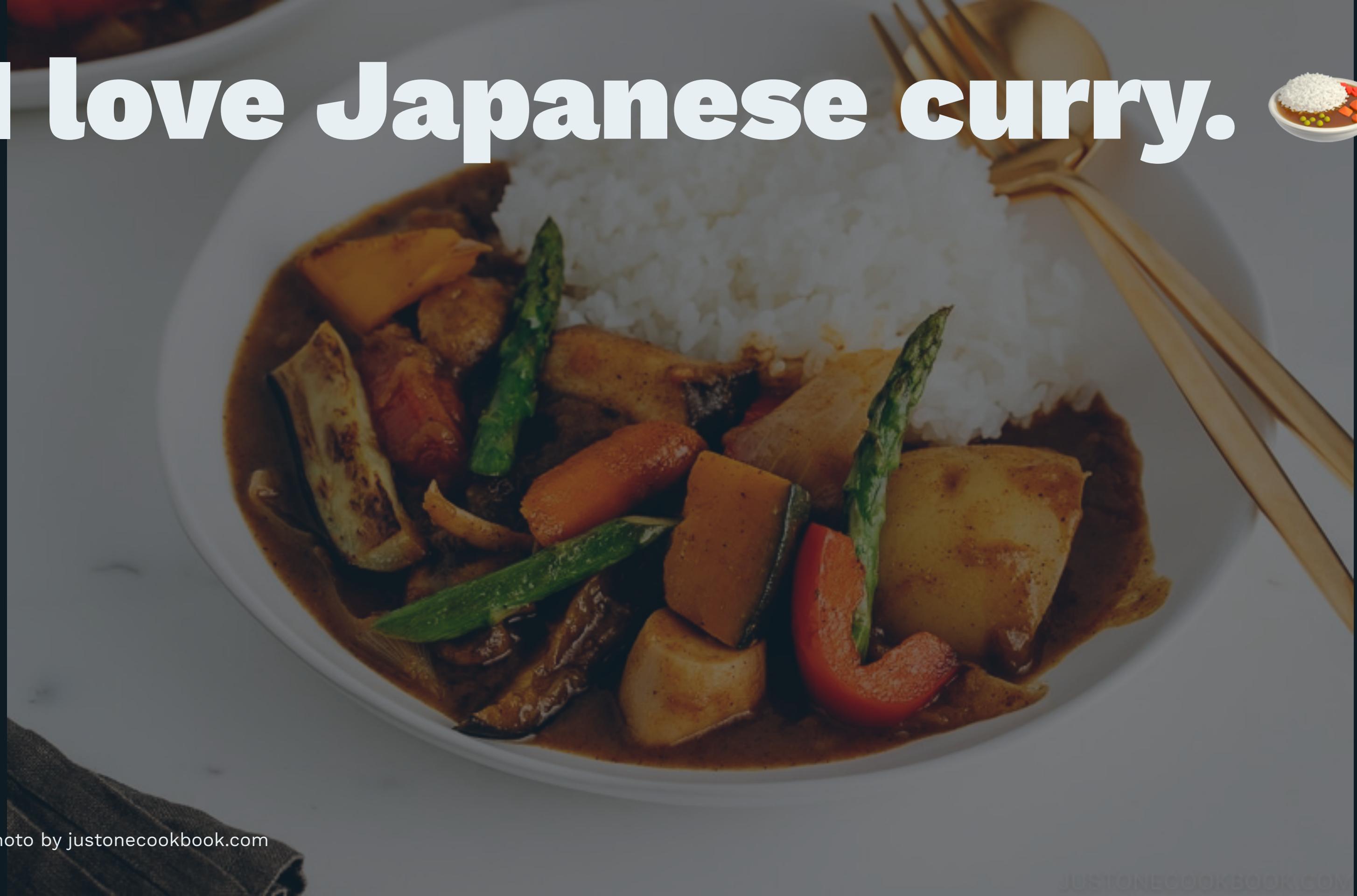
I am working as an
infrastructure engineer at
real.digital¹.

real.digital

we ❤ digital commerce

¹ real is hiring!

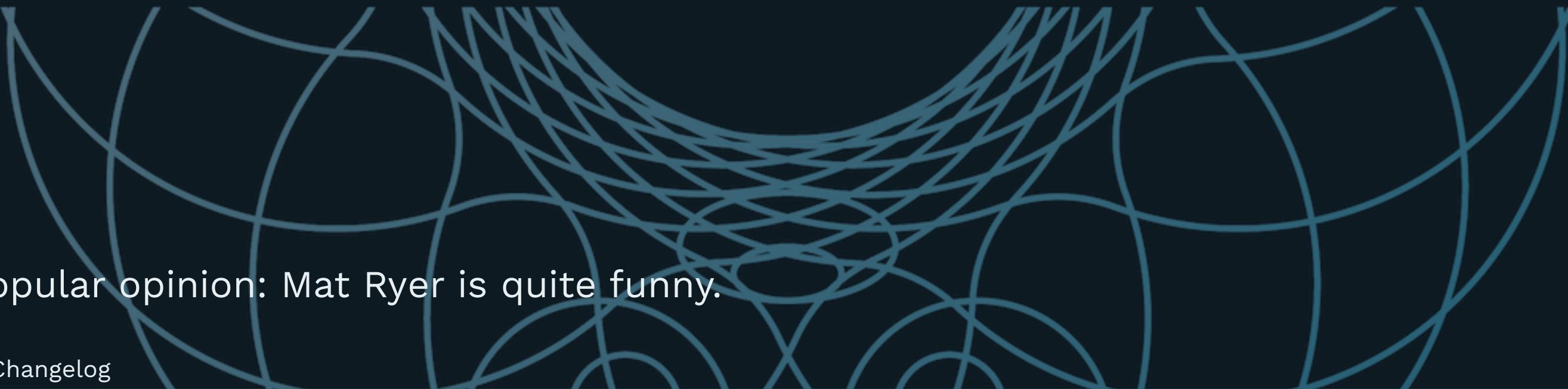
I love Japanese curry.



I really enjoy Go Time.²



GO TIME



² Unpopular opinion: Mat Ryer is quite funny.

You can find me as @shimst3r on
Twitter and GitHub. Please
reach out. 🖐

Agenda

1. What is exercism.io?
2. As a Mentee
3. As a Mentor
4. As a Team

Exercism is an online coding platform that offers code practice and mentorship.

— [Wikipedia](#)

Where other online coding platforms are about challenges and competition, Exercism focusses on **community** and **compassion**.

Exercism has

- A community of **330k users** in **200 countries**
- A group of **2.5k mentors** in **29 timezones**
- A variety of curated exercises in **50 programming languages**

As a Mentee

**As I got started with coding, I
was on my own and struggled
with long feedback loops.**

I didn't know where to start.
Or how.

As I tried new languages, I had trouble unlearning old habits.

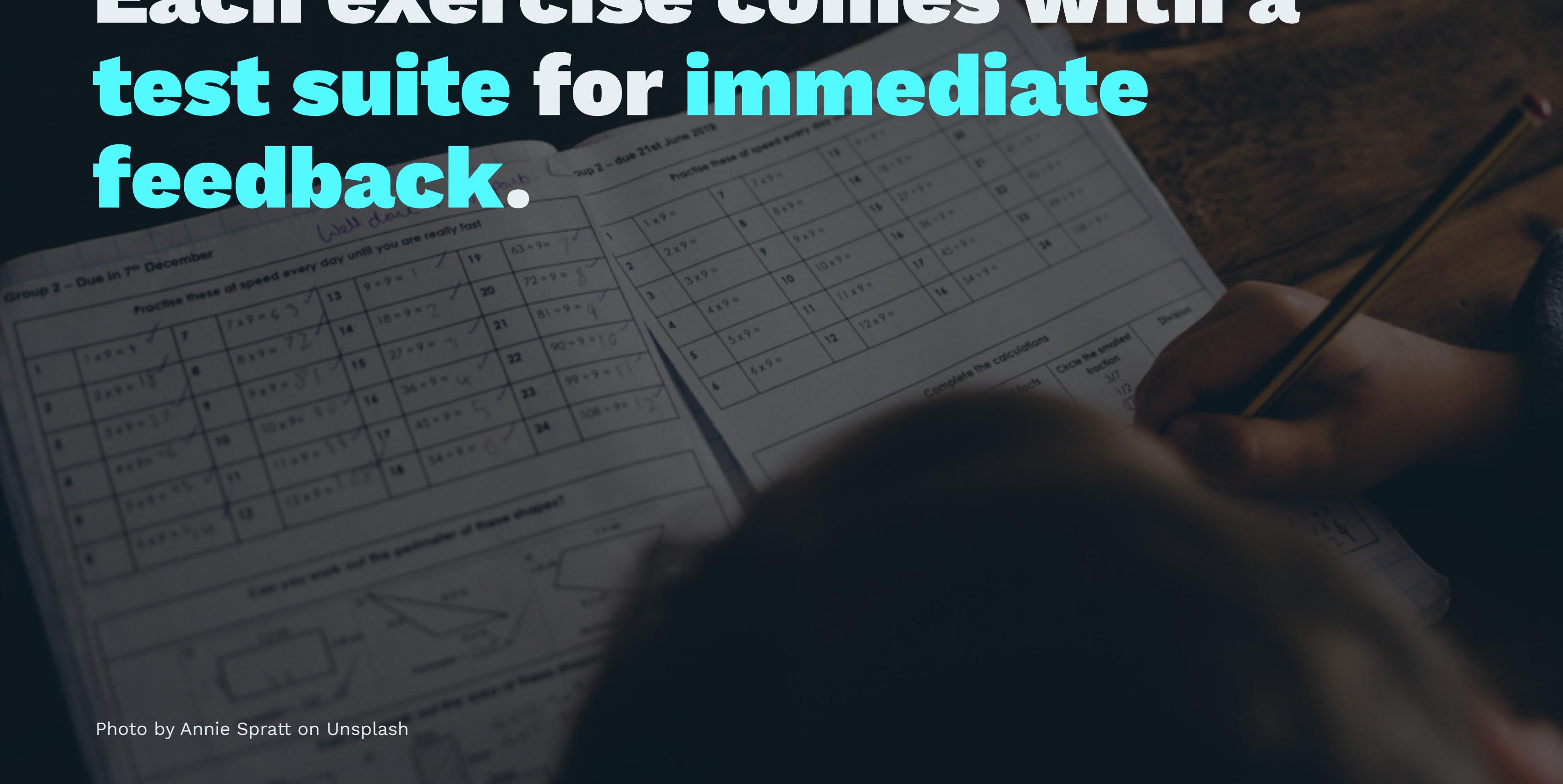




A photograph showing two people from the waist up, sitting at a table. They are both holding white paper coffee cups with dark liquid inside. The person on the left is wearing a grey t-shirt and blue jeans. The person on the right is wearing a light-colored striped shirt. The background is blurred.

**Exercism mentors will support
you and guide you to idiomatic
code.**

Each exercise comes with a test suite for immediate feedback.



The Go **track** comes with 109 exercises³ of varying difficulty.

It starts with **Hello World** and extends your knowledge **little by little**.

³ As of Dec 2020

Mentee Guide

To get the most out of Exercism:

- Ask your mentors **all the questions**.
- **Compare your solutions** to those of other mentees.
- **Explore** the language in the safe environment.

As a Mentor



**After being a teaching
assistant at university, I
wanted to keep on mentoring,
but didn't have the time for in-
person classes.**

I was looking for an open
community where I could help
mentoring people regardless of
their backgrounds.



**These guiding principles are
closely resembled by
Exercism's value proposition:**

Value Proposition

We envision a world where anyone from any background can become fluent in any programming language for free. Through programming exercises, resources and a safe and nurturing community.

— exercism.io

**Mentoring on Exercism is a
great way of becoming a better
developer and a humble
teacher.**

**Great community mentor notes
are there to help you out when
in doubt.**



Photo by David Travis on Unsplash

A photograph of a person from behind, walking away through a field covered in fallen orange and brown autumn leaves. The person is wearing a dark jacket and a backpack. The background shows a line of trees with some yellow and orange foliage.

Because of the **asynchronous**
nature of the platform, you can
mentor at your **own pace.**

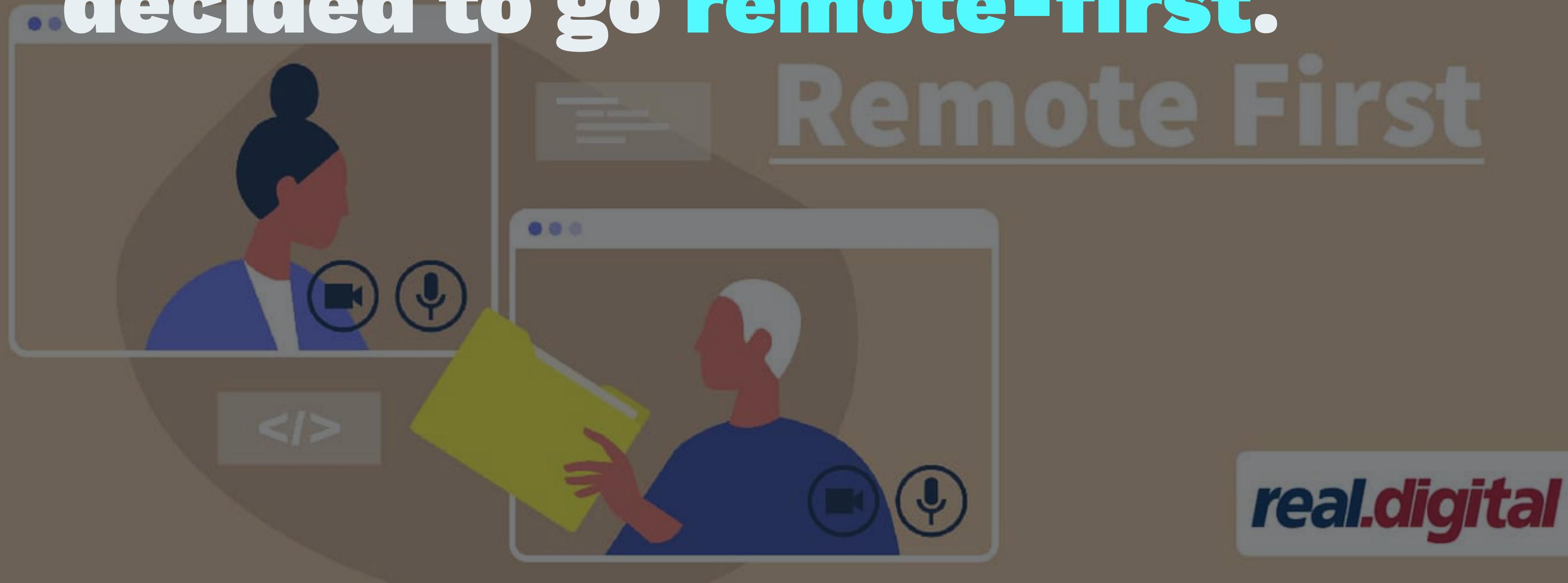
Mentor Guide

How to be a supportive mentor:

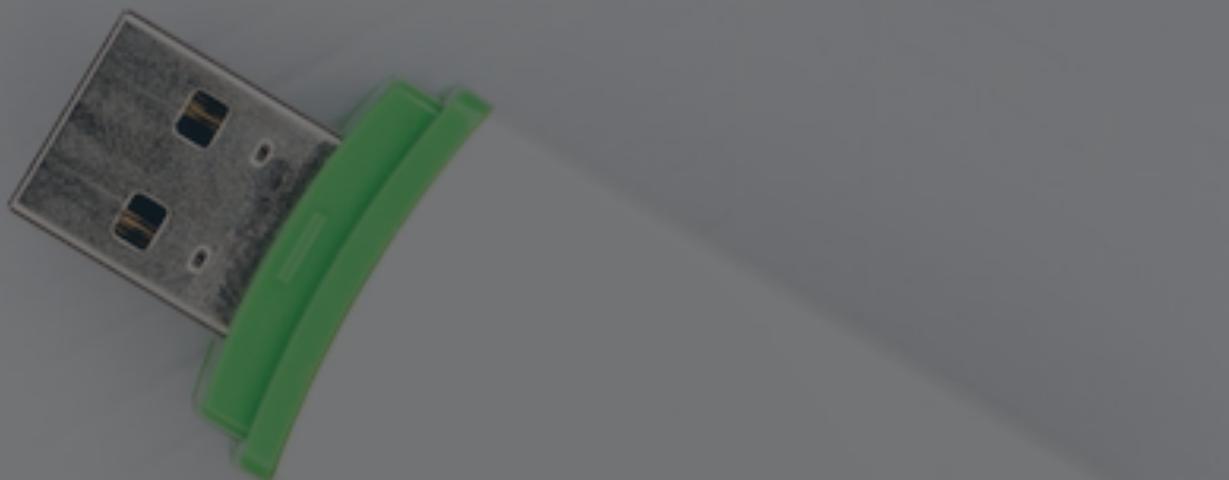
- Be **humble and patient**.
- Make use of the **community mentor notes**.
- **Don't rush** yourself!

As a team

In August 2020, real.digital
decided to go **remote-first**.



While it made life easier in general, it made knowledge transfer more difficult.



To counter this, I proposed the introduction of remote coding dojos using Exercism:

A Coding Dojo is a meeting where a bunch of coders get together to work on a programming challenge. They are there to have fun and to engage in deliberate practice in order to improve their skills.

— codingdojo.org

Why Exercism?

- lots of exercises at **different levels of difficulty**
- **clearly defined** tasks
- infrastructure for **async discussion**

How does it work?



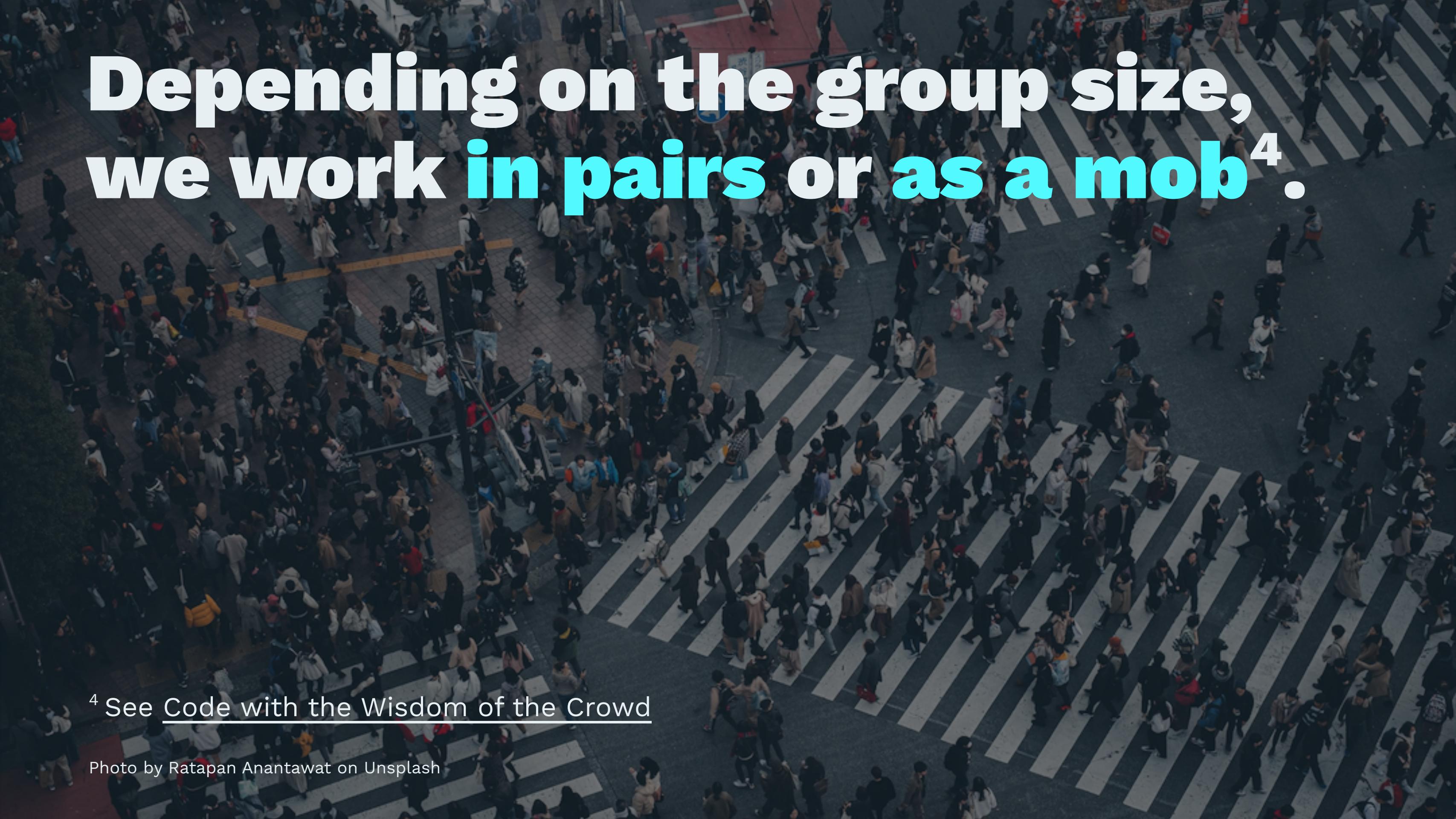
Photo by Kelly Sikkema on Unsplash

Each session has a **theme**, like
algorithms or **datastructures**.



Photo by Yaopey Yong on Unsplash

We start by introducing the exercises, with an emphasise on what to learn and what to watch out for.

An aerial photograph capturing a massive crowd of people at a busy intersection in Tokyo. The scene is dominated by a large, well-maintained crosswalk with white diagonal stripes. The crowd is dense, with people moving in various directions, some walking across the crosswalk and others waiting on the sidewalks. The surrounding area shows more of the city's infrastructure, including other crosswalks and what appears to be a train station or subway entrance in the background. The overall atmosphere is one of a bustling urban environment.

Depending on the group size,
we work **in pairs** or as a **mob**⁴.

⁴ See [Code with the Wisdom of the Crowd](#)

We set aside 30 minutes each
for solving the exercises and
discussing the solutions
afterwards.



Following each session, the Exercism platform can be used to discuss open points.



Photo by Akson on Unsplash

Team Guide

1. Choose a **theme** and pick suiting **exercises**
2. Emphasise **learning outcomes**
3. **30 minutes** each of **coding and discussion**
4. ...
5. Profit!

Executive Summary

Exercism is

- an **open and welcoming** coding platform
- **benefiting** mentees and mentors alike
- a great tool for **remote knowledge sharing**

thank you!

