

exercism.io

One Platform, Three Perspectives

About Me

I am 31 years old, started coding at 26, became a Gopher about 1 year ago.

You can find me as [@shimst3r](#) on
Twitter and GitHub. Please
reach out. 

I live in Bielefeld, Germany.

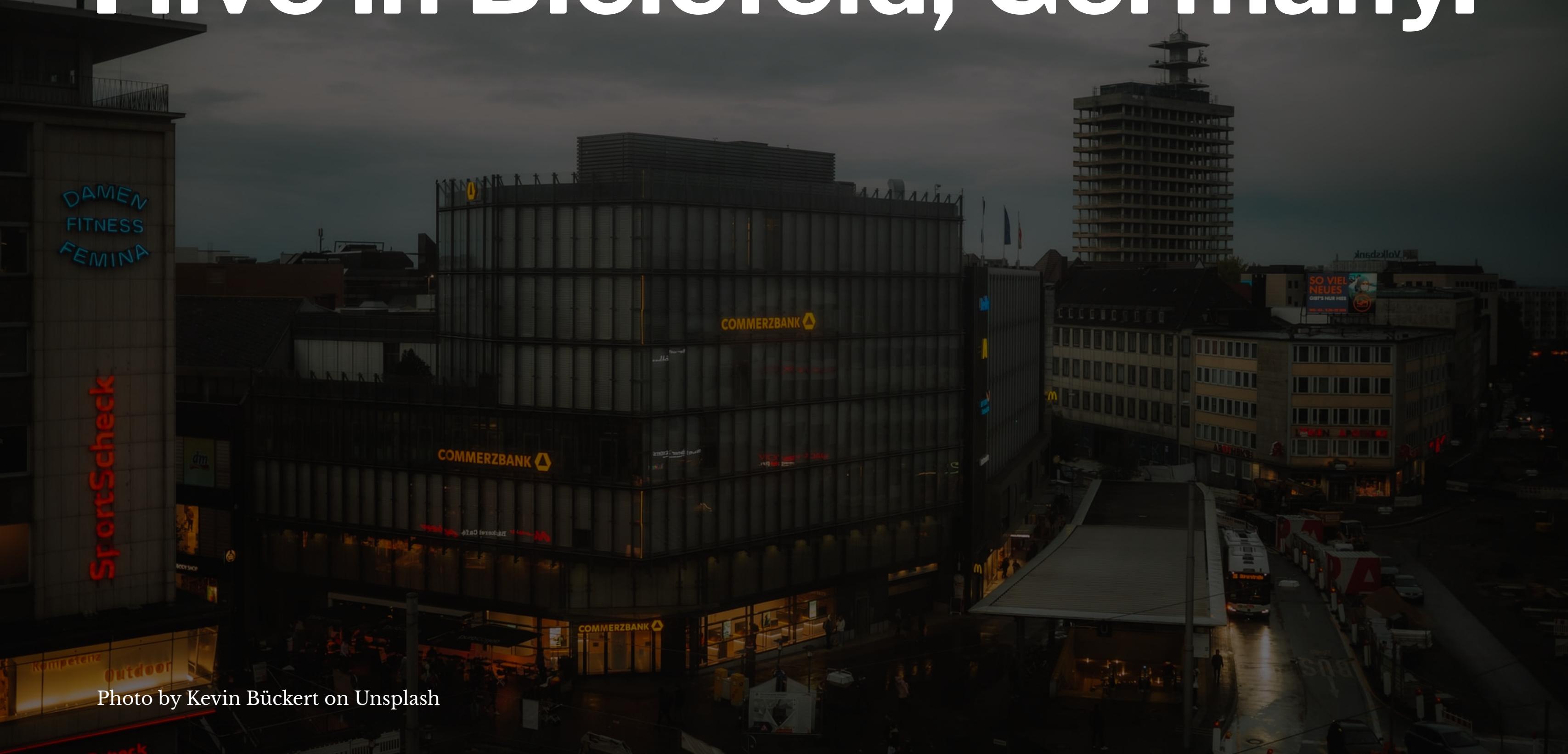


Photo by Kevin Bückert on Unsplash

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



we ❤ digital commerce

¹ We are hiring!

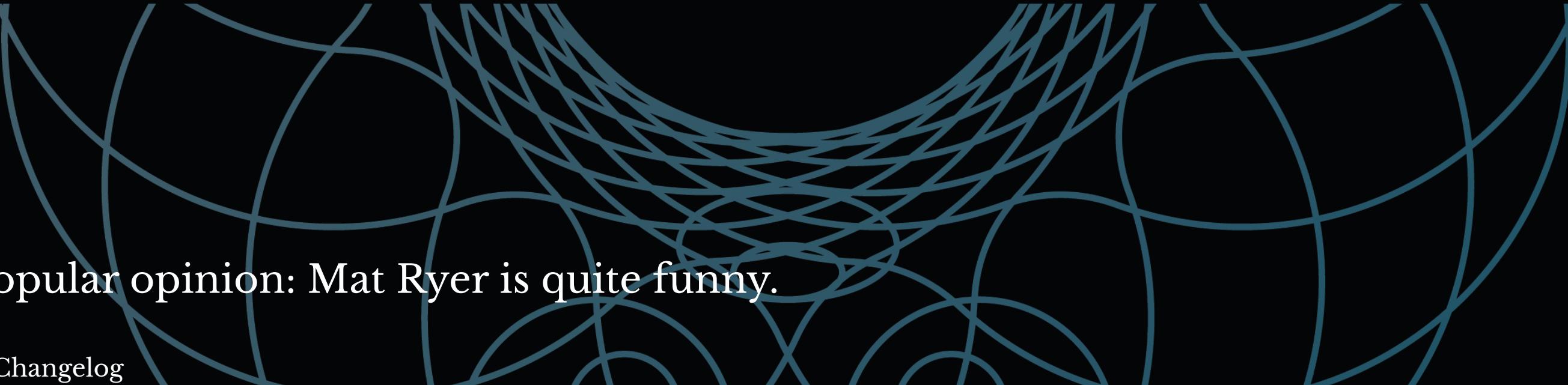
I love Japanese curry.



I really enjoy Go Time.²



GO TIME



² Unpopular opinion: Mat Ryer is quite funny.

Agenda

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



Logo by Exercism

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.

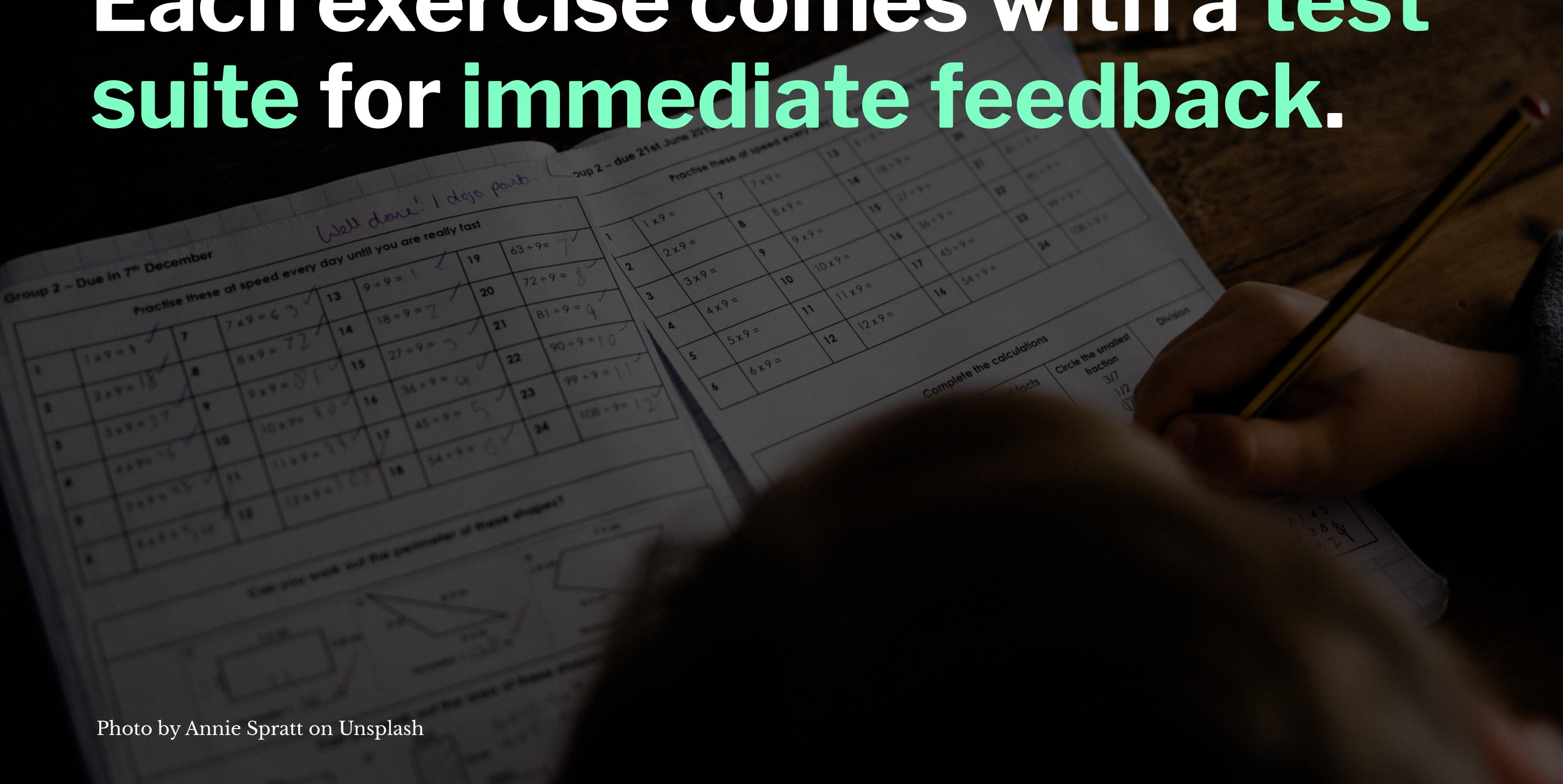


Photo by Prophsee Journals on Unsplash

A photograph showing two people's hands holding white coffee cups filled with dark coffee. They are positioned in front of a textured, greyish-blue wall. One person is wearing a striped shirt and blue jeans, while the other is wearing a light-colored shirt. A small gold ring with the word "FREE" is visible on the person's left hand.

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.

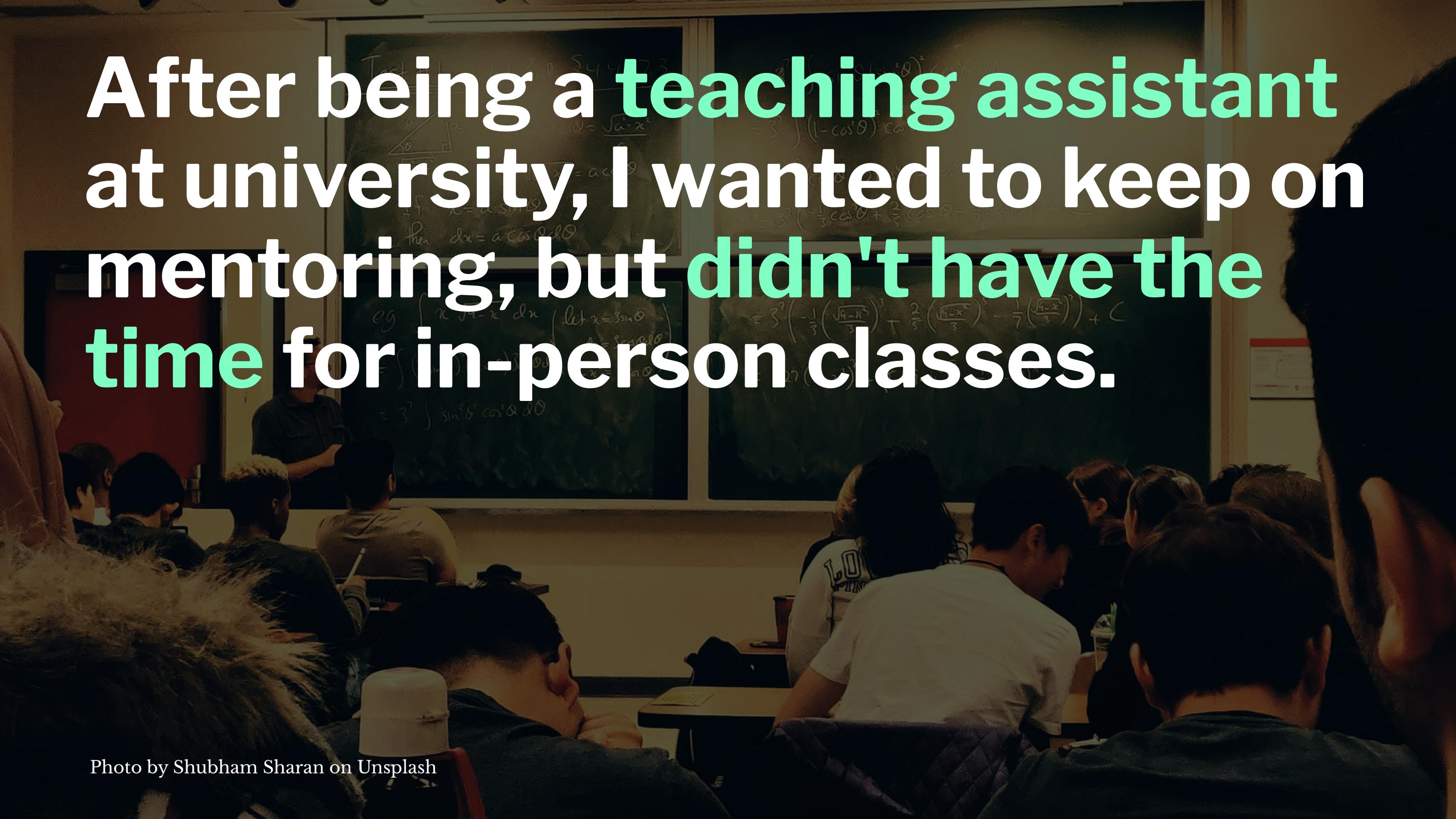
³ As of Dec 2020

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

A classroom scene with students at desks and a chalkboard filled with mathematical equations.

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 all 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.**

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

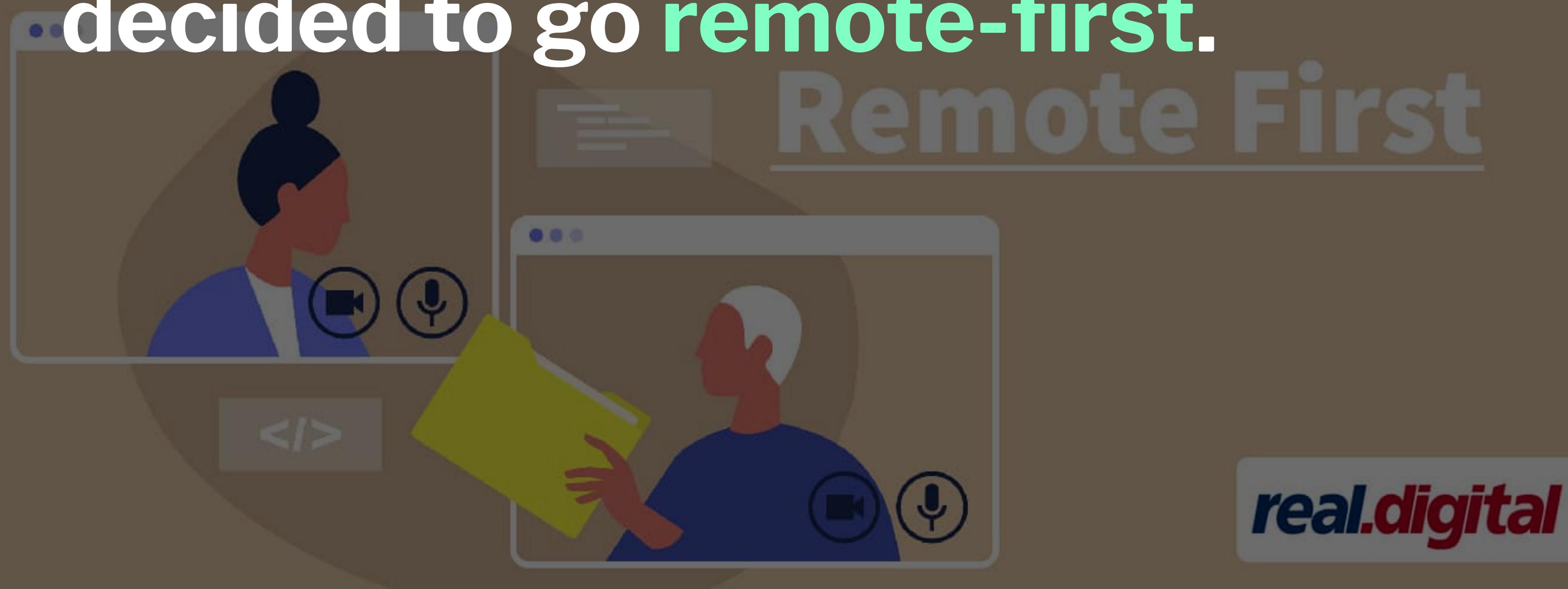
Mentor Guide

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.

Why Exercism?

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

How does it work?

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

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

Depending on the group size, we work in pairs or as a mob⁴.

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.**

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!

