

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.

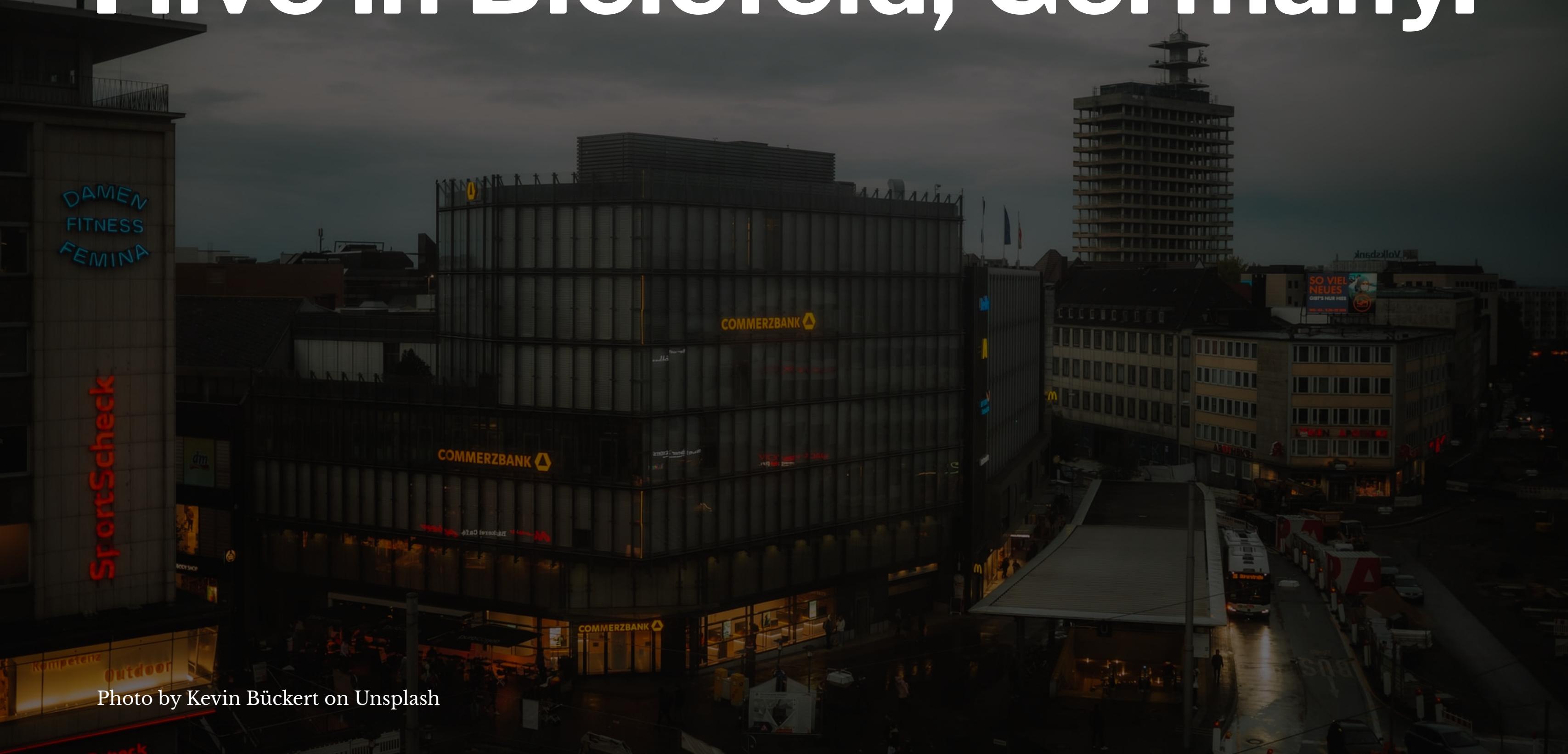


Photo by Kevin Bückert on Unsplash

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



we ❤ digital commerce

¹ We are hiring!

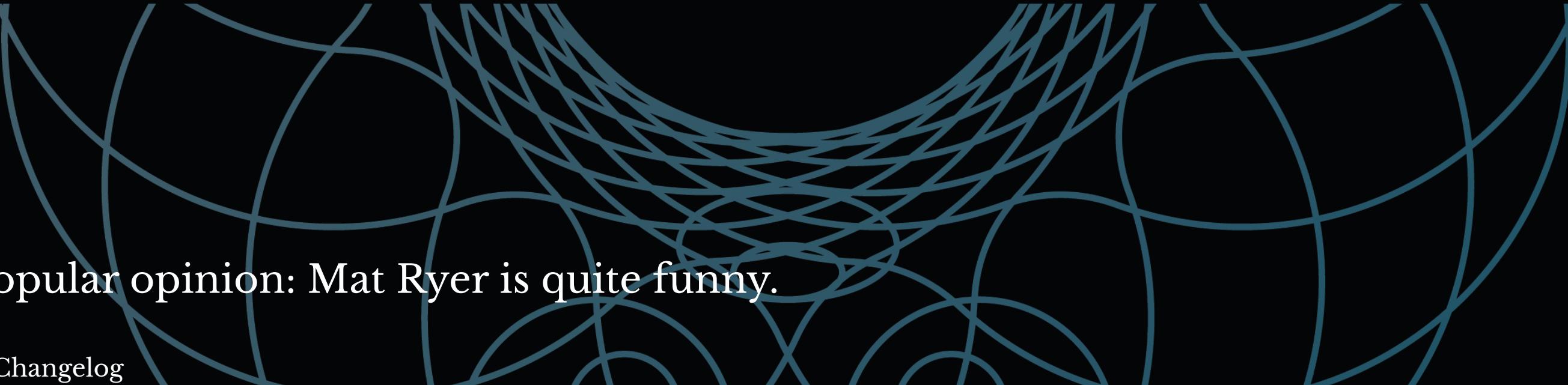
I love Japanese curry.



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.

When I switched languages, I had trouble unlearning old habits.



Photo by Prophsee Journals on Unsplash

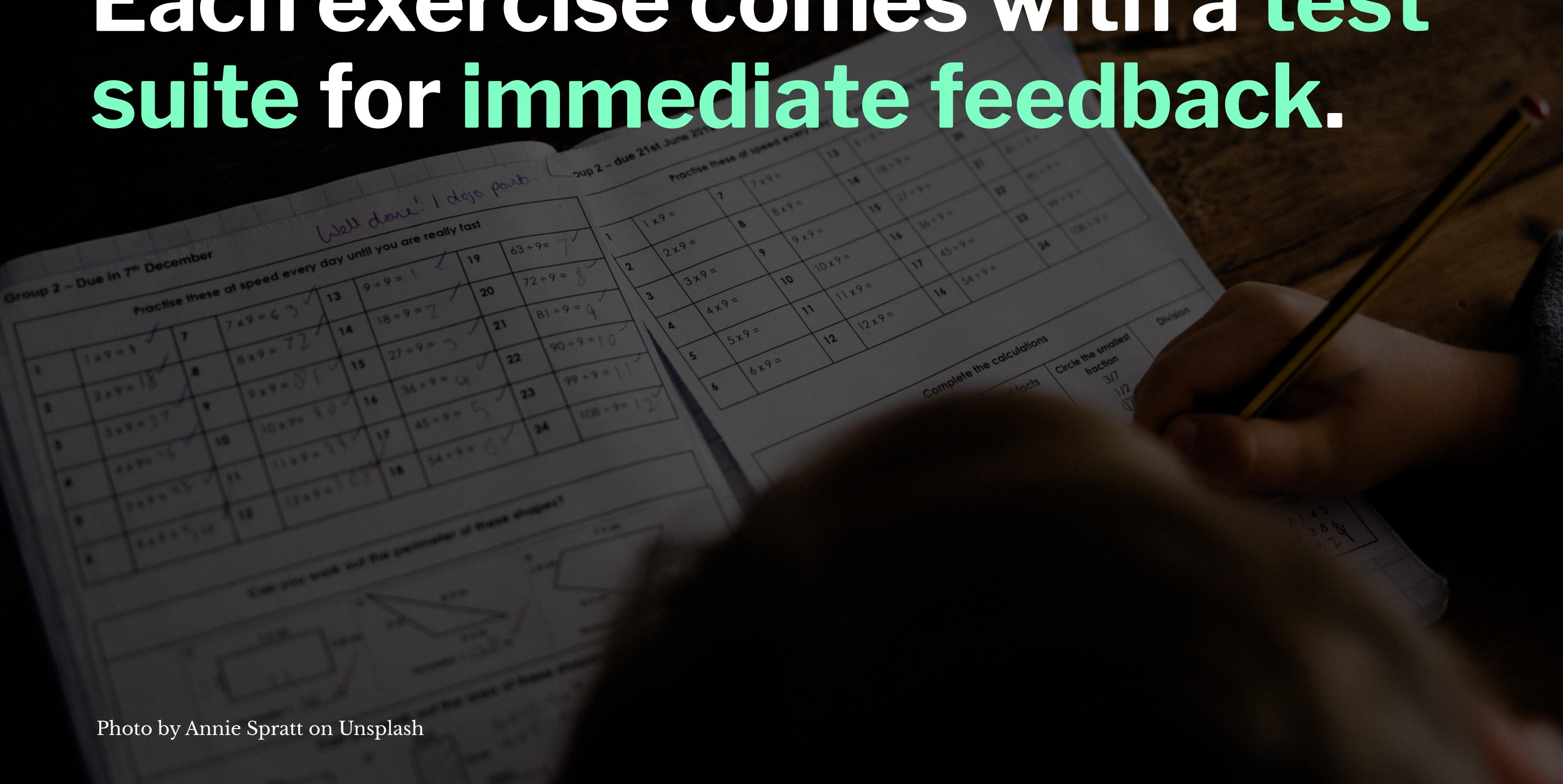
I didn't know where to start.
Or how.

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.

Photo by Joshua Ness on Unsplash

Each exercise comes with a test suite for immediate feedback.



The Go track comes with 109 exercises³ of varying difficulty.

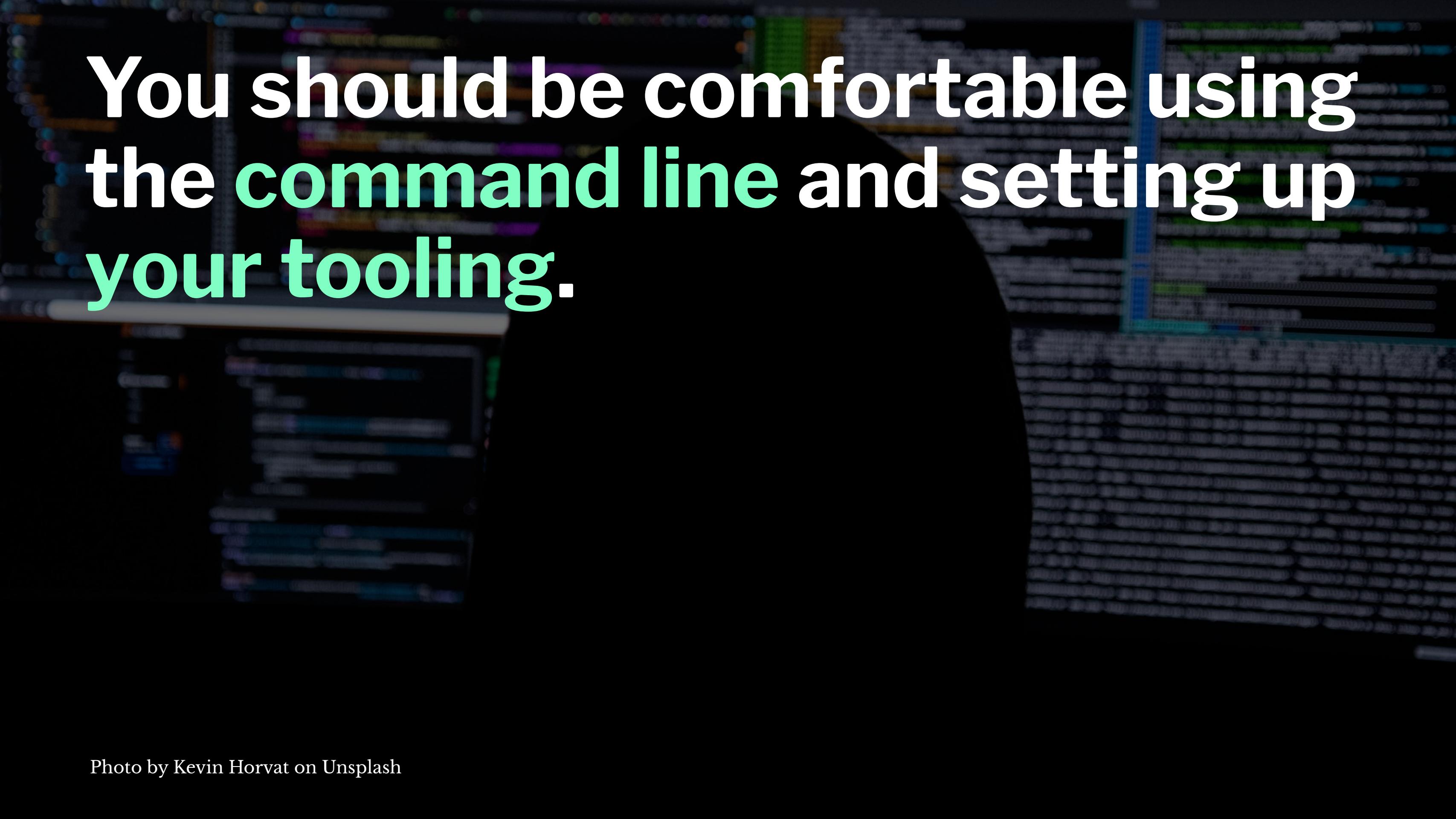
It starts with Hello World and extends your knowledge little by little.

³ As of Dec 2020

Is Exercism the **right** platform for me?

Photo by Juan Rumimpunu on Unsplash

**It is great for learning your
second language, as the
exercises do not teach
programming concepts
explicitly.**



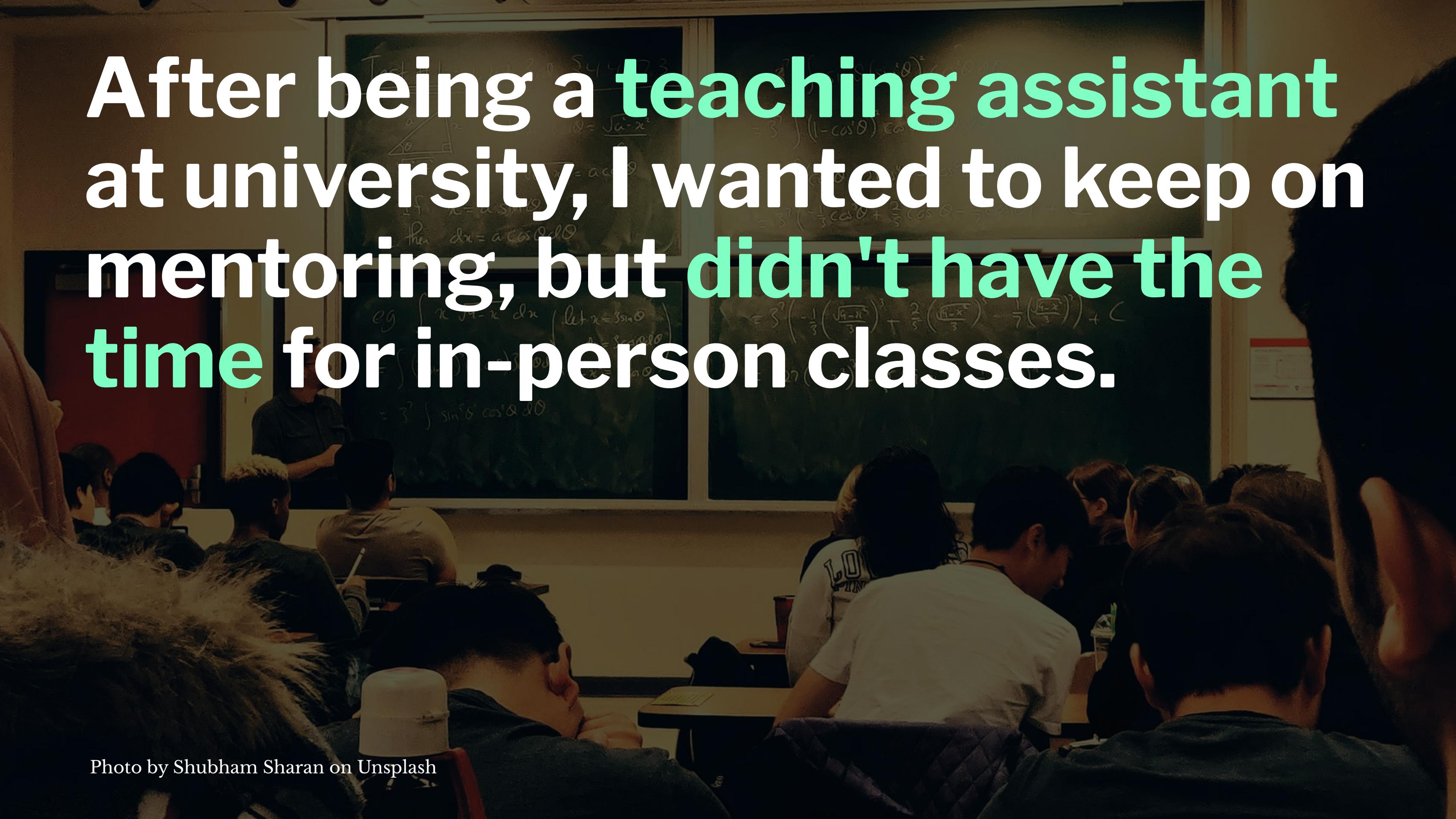
You should be comfortable using
the **command line** and setting up
your tooling.

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.

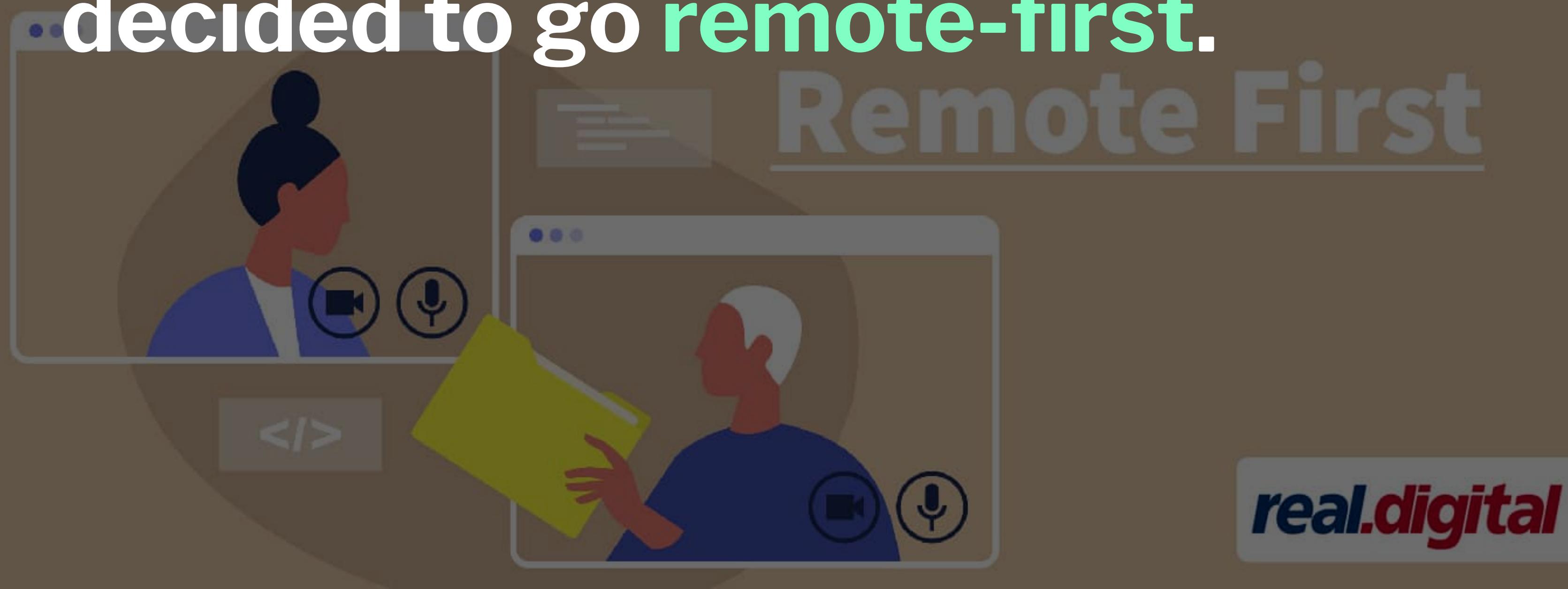
Mentor Guide

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!

