

# 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 [@ashimst3r](#) 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.digital<sup>1</sup>.

real.digital

we ❤ digital commerce

<sup>1</sup> We are hiring!

# I love Japanese curry.



I really enjoy Go Time.<sup>2</sup>

GO TIME

<sup>2</sup> 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



**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.

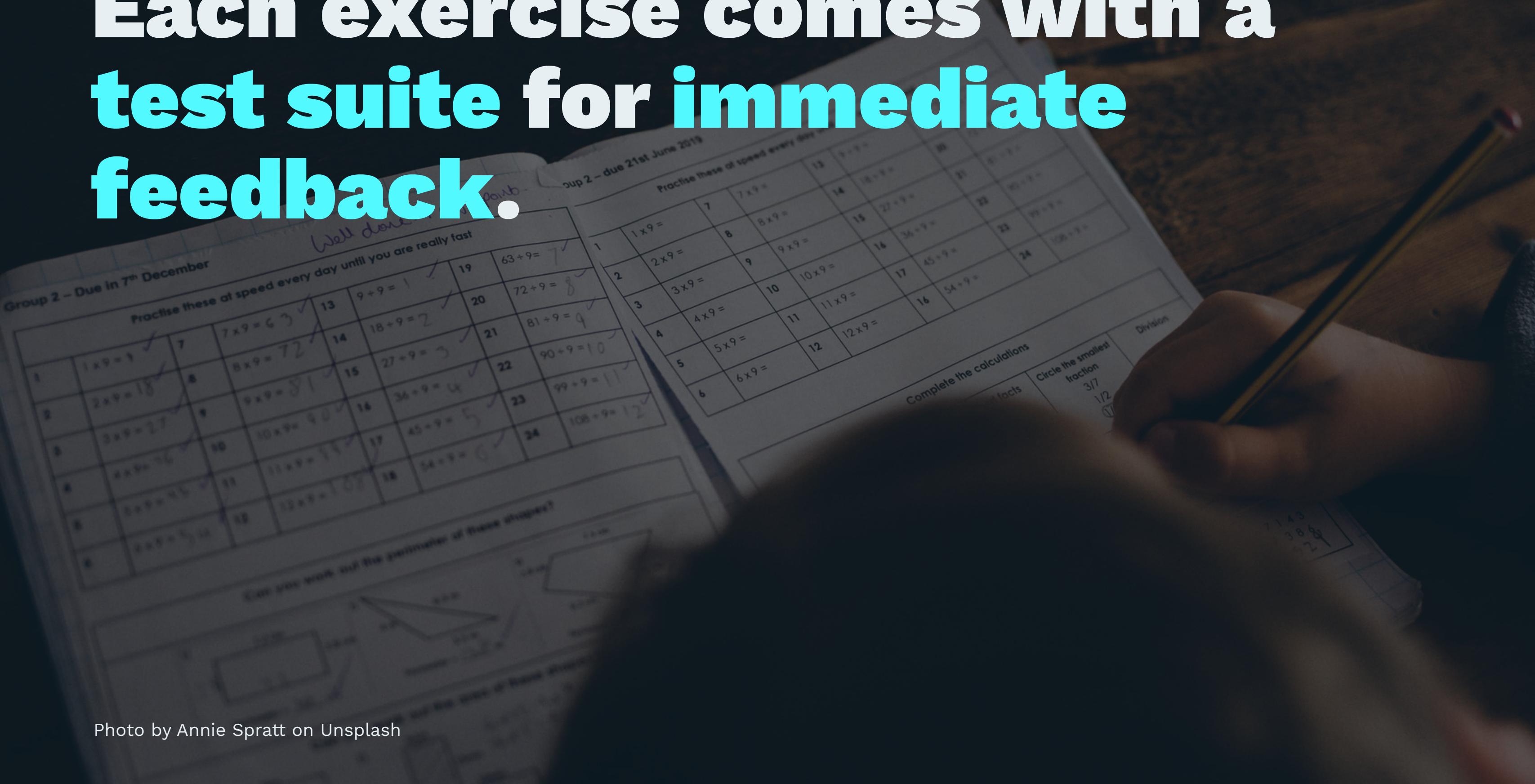
**As I tried new languages, I had trouble unlearning old habits.**



A photograph showing two pairs of hands holding white coffee cups. The hands belong to two different people, one wearing a blue shirt and jeans, and another wearing a striped shirt. They are holding the cups towards each other in a social gesture. The background is a dark, textured surface.

**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 exercises**<sup>3</sup> of varying difficulty.

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

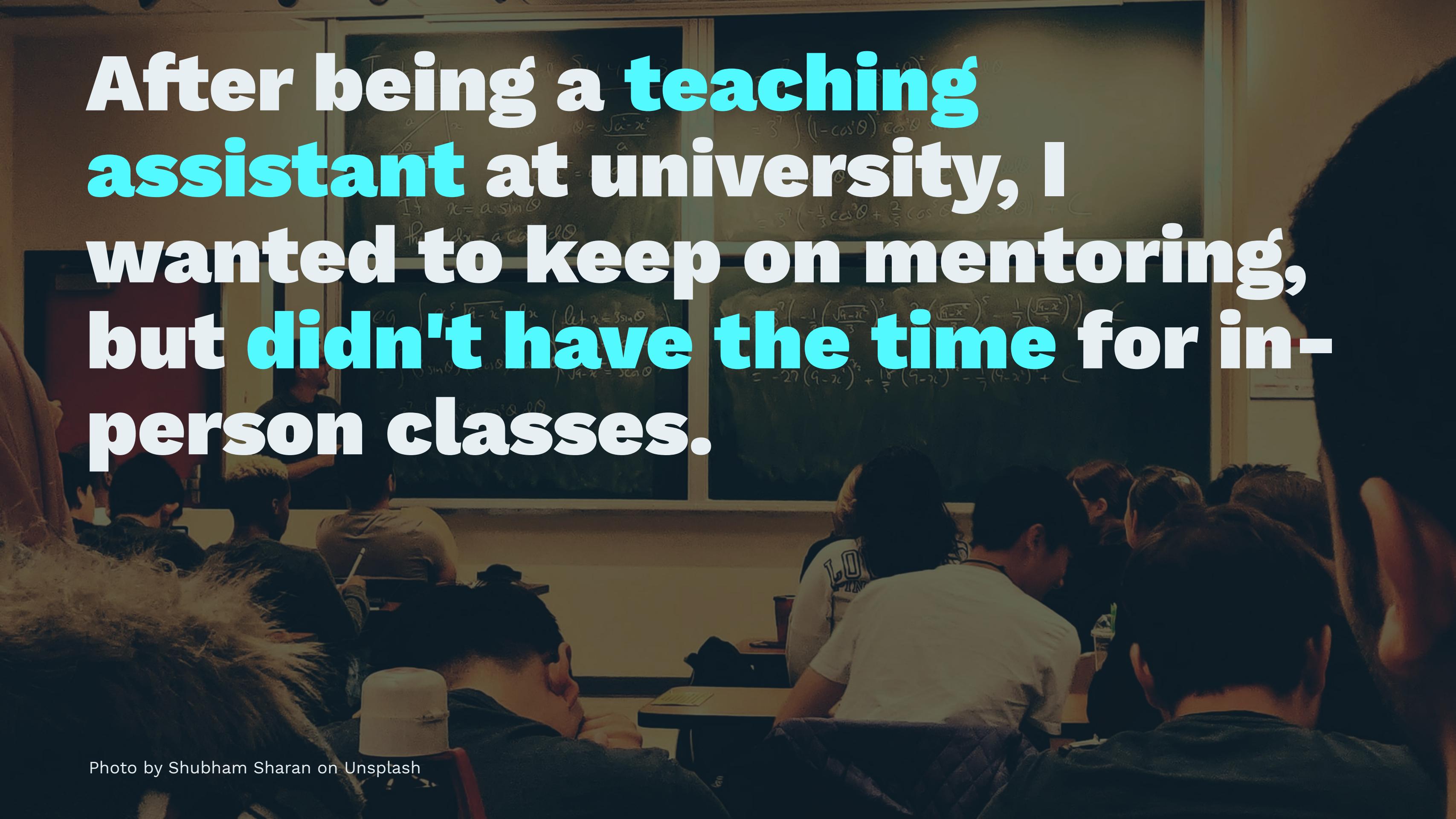
<sup>3</sup> As of Dec 2020

# 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 in the foreground taking notes, and chalkboards in the background covered in 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 people regardless of  
their backgrounds.



open

A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a small, clear glass bell or chime. The hands are positioned as if they are about to ring it. The background is dark and out of focus.

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](https://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 autumn foliage.

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

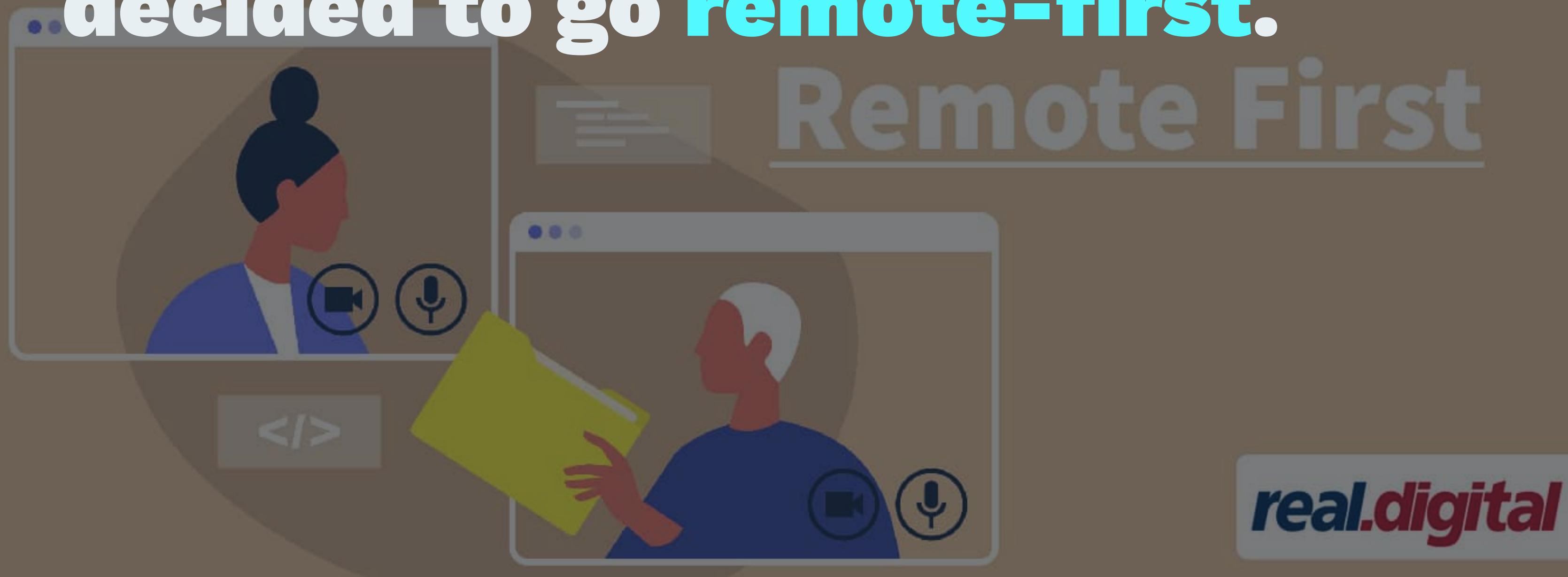
# Mentor Guide

How to be a supportive mentor:

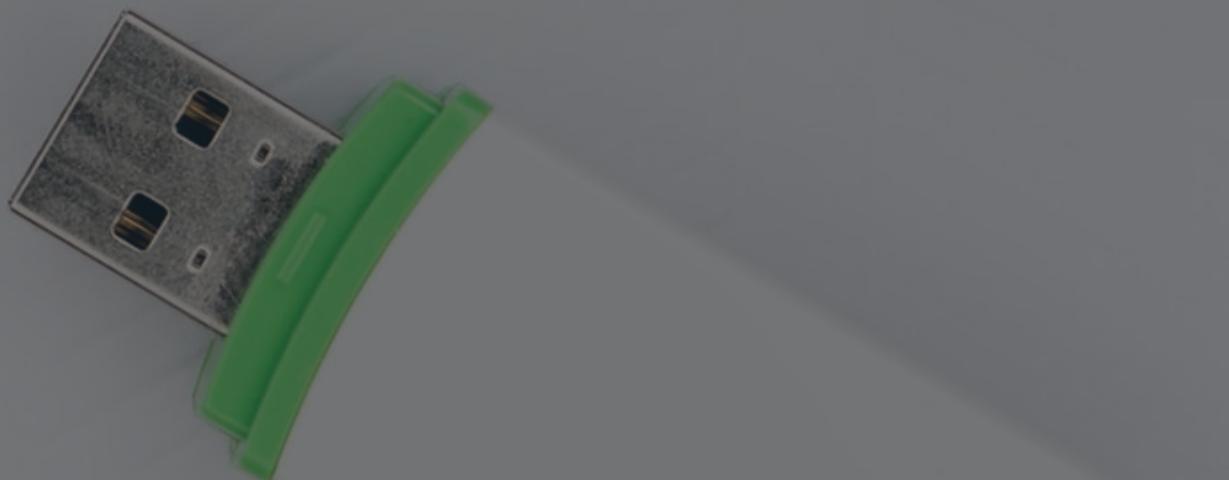
- Be **humble and patient**.
- Make use of the **community mentor notes**.
- **Don't rush** yourself!

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.



Photo by Thao Le Hoang on Unsplash

# Why Exercism?

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

# How does it work?



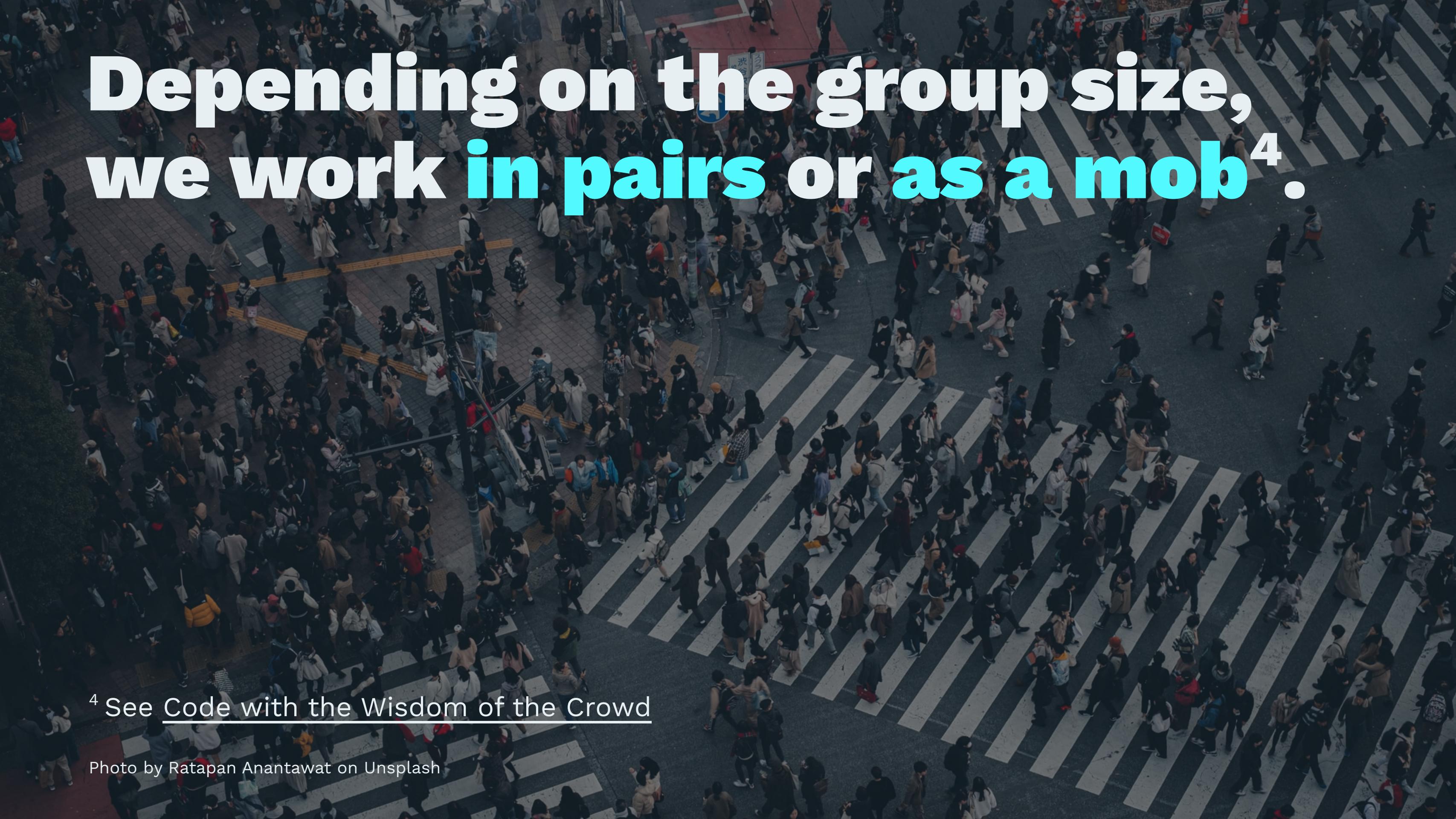
Photo by Kelly Sikkema on Unsplash

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. Numerous pedestrians, dressed in a variety of winter clothing like coats and hats, are scattered across the area, some walking towards the camera and others away. In the background, city buildings and signs are visible, though slightly out of focus. The overall atmosphere is one of a bustling urban environment.

Depending on the group size,  
we work in pairs or as a mob<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>4</sup> 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!

