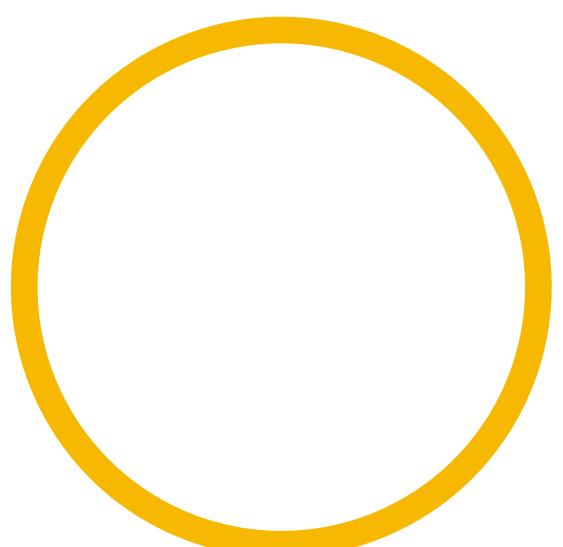


# 12 Strategies to Learn How to Code



# Introduction



How do you learn to code? We asked our students what their top strategies were for learning how to code. As we compiled their responses, we started to see patterns emerge. We grouped their answers into best practices and are sharing them with you here.

If you are learning to code, these best practices will help you start a career in tech.

# 1. Find a Mentor

It's tough learning anything new because you don't know what you don't know. A mentor can offer you guidance and insight from their experience and knowledge.

An ideal mentor is someone who's walked the path before you and has achieved your goal.

# skillify Coaches

Skillify's coding program gives you exclusive access to **mentorship from expert coaches** with decades of experience working at big tech companies.



**Vithushan N.**  
Spotify, Meta



**Raveen R.**  
Spotify, Peloton



**Jason R.**  
AMD, NVIDIA



**Brian S.**  
Spotify, Utopia



## 2. Join a Community

Learning with a group is much more effective than trying to study on your own. A **community of learners** will help and support you. They will keep you accountable for your goals.

It's also important to contribute to whatever community that you join. A good measure of whether you understand a concept is whether or not you can teach it to someone else. **Building connections** is what humans are meant to do and it will only help you in your career.

# 3. Believe in Yourself

Learning to code can seem intimidating, but it's like learning any other skill. You can learn anything with **practice and consistency**. You have to believe that you can do it. Imposter syndrome is rampant in the tech industry. Everyone feels like they don't belong and they tricked their way past an interview. You belong in tech and you deserve to be there!

# How did Kari go from Product Manager to Junior Engineer in less than 6 months?



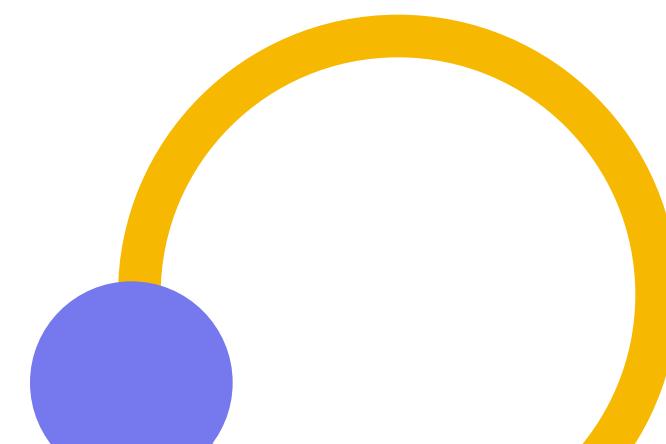
**Kari W.**  
Former Student

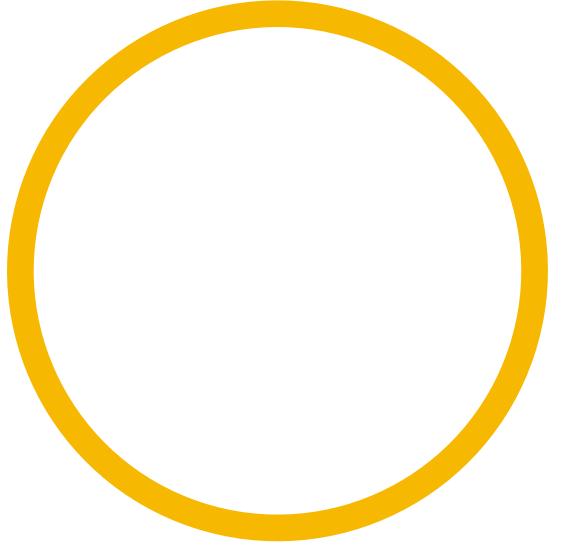
Kari joined our coding program to learn front-end coding skills because she wanted to advance her career and grow her role within a start-up.

At Skillify, she learned how to:

- Build mobile responsive **components and features**
- **Test** her own code
- Work on an **engineering team**
- ...and more!

You can do it too, if you believe in yourself!





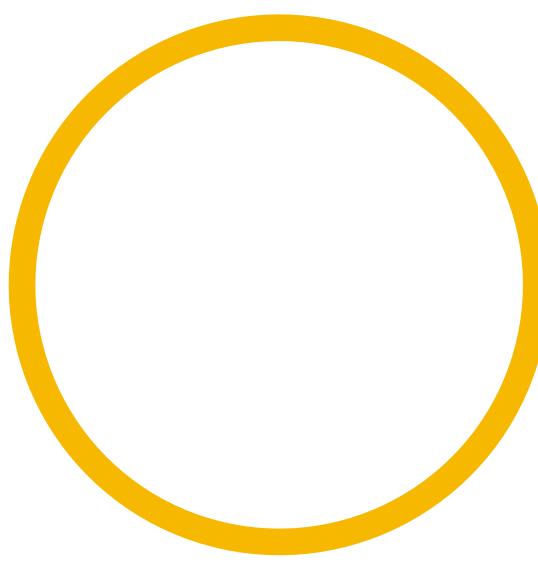
# 4. Don't Compare Yourself to Others



Everyone is on their own personal learning journey and each journey is going to look different. There's no point in looking at other people and getting discouraged. With consistent practice and support, **anyone can reach their goals**. Comparing yourself to other people's progress will only hurt you.

# 5. Be Open to Failure

Learning to code is a marathon, not a sprint. Getting stuck and frustrated is part of the learning journey, otherwise, you aren't really challenging yourself.



# 6. Learn to Google



Don't re-invent the wheel. Most of the questions you might have are probably already answered somewhere. An important aspect of coding is knowing what to Google.

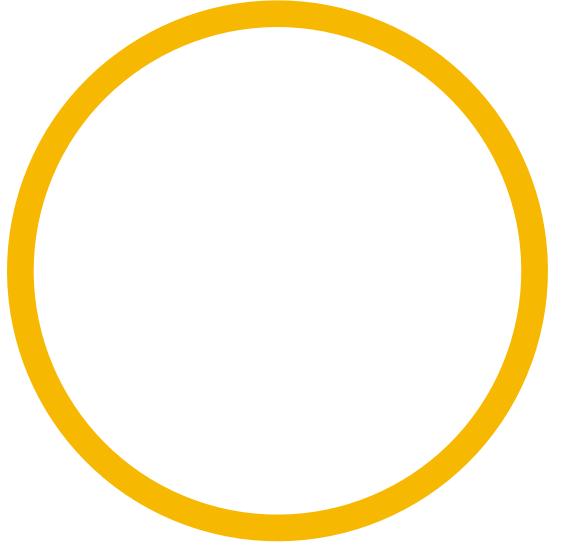
# 7. Don't Apply to Jobs Online

Did you know that most job openings don't get posted online (job boards, LinkedIn, etc.)? Jobs are often filled by people who know the recruiter or have connections. This is why it's important to focus your job hunting efforts on networking and meeting people in the tech industry.



# Mock Interviews & Resume Critiques

Skillify will help you refine your resume, LinkedIn, and portfolio, and then train you to ace your technical interviews.



# 8. Challenge Yourself

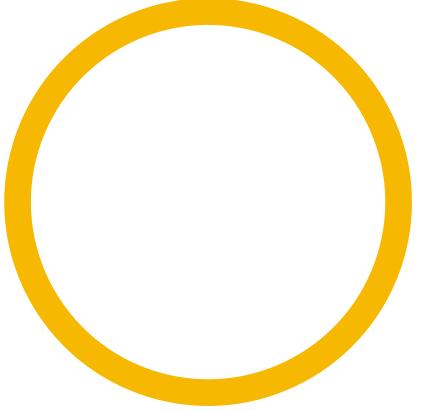


Keep taking on tasks that are just hard enough. Take on small tasks when you are starting off, but keep pushing yourself to take on bigger and more complicated tasks. Eventually you want to be able to build a complex interactive web or mobile application from scratch. In the beginning, you should focus on writing a few lines of code to solve much simpler problems.

Don't be afraid to ask for help, but try doing it yourself first and then reach out for assistance.

# 9. Read Documentation

Documentation is an online manual that creators of a framework have written to help newcomers learn the framework. Often people will jump in, trying to use the coding framework without reading how things are supposed to work. Read any available documentation before you start coding, and refer back to it whenever you get stuck. That's what it's there for!



# 10. Repetition is Key



**Keep practicing** your skills repeatedly. Go back and look at your old code and see how you could have written it differently. Do you even recognize what you wrote? Is there a way to make it easier to read? Is there a way to solve the problem more efficiently?

The first time you write a piece of code is like writing a first draft for an essay. You can (and should!) go back to iterate over your work and improve it.

# 11. Set Goals

Hold yourself accountable by setting realistic goals. Ask yourself:

- What do I want to achieve?
- What do I need to do to achieve it? Be specific!
- When do I want to achieve this? Give yourself deadlines.

# Why do you want to learn coding?



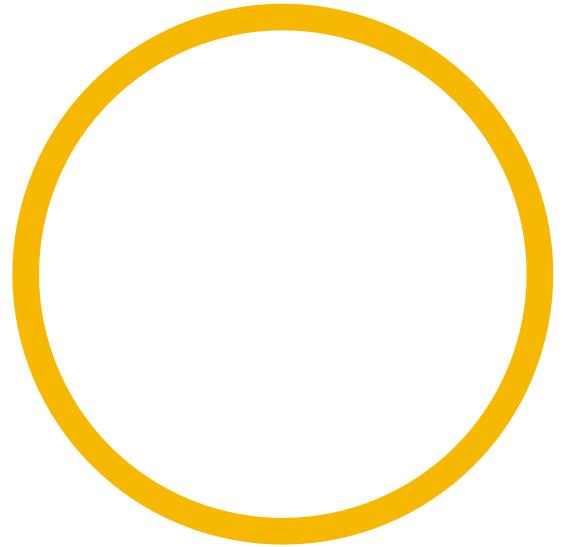
**Ajevan M.**  
Former Student

Is it to become a web developer? Build personal projects? Identifying your source of **motivation is key** to staying on track with your learning goals.

One of our students, Ajevan, was previously working as a performance tester but wanted to pivot his career to software engineering. He joined our program to learn coding through a personalized curriculum and hands-on projects. Skillify helped him get the exact job he wanted, with a higher salary and better work-life balance.

# 12. Step Away From the Screen

When you're stuck on a problem, it's easy to want to grind through a bug and stay seated until you figure out what's wrong. Fight that urge and **take lots of breaks**. Go outside for a walk and get some fresh air. Often you'll think of the solution the minute you decide to go think about something else.

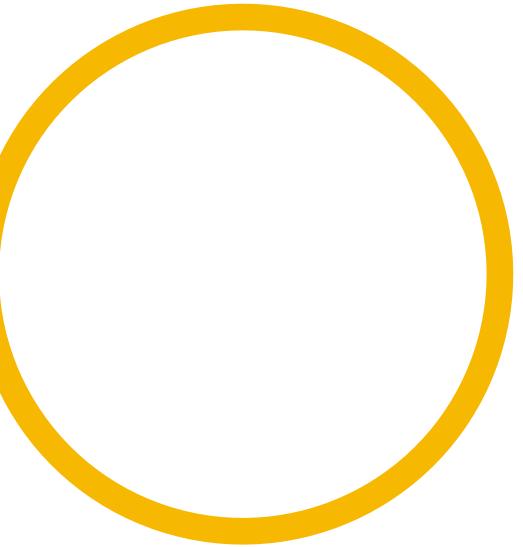


# Best Practices



There's a lot that goes into learning how to code, and some people have unique methods that work for them. After all, we all have different talents, aspirations, and circumstances.

But these insights and disciplines from our past students show us twelve of the best practices we can all follow to accomplish our goals and start a career in tech.



# Remember



1. Find a mentor
2. Join a community
3. Believe in yourself
4. Don't compare yourself to others
5. Be open to failure
6. Learn to Google
7. Don't apply to jobs online
8. Challenge yourself
9. Read documentation
10. Repetition is key
11. Set goals
12. Step away from the screen

# Want more tips?

Take the next step to advance your career by booking a FREE call with one of our expert coaches: [joinskillify.com/call](https://joinskillify.com/call)

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 [skillify.ca](https://skillify.ca)