Dear Student,

Break your project sessions up, don't try to code a whole project in one sitting. Both for your piece of mind, and I have found that sleeping on problems and carrying them around with you in the back of your head as you go about your day really helps to come up with novel solutions and fix errors that are breaking your code. In a similar vein–I am being a hypocrite here–but it does really help to break up your code into little pieces, AKA separating functions and having everything be its own variable. It is so much easier to control and change your code on the fly, debug errors, and add new complexity to your code when it is modular. There were so many times that I realized if I passed a named variable as a parameter instead of typing the number '30' a hundred times, I would not only save myself time when I need to change values, but I could easily add really cool dynamism by having that variable change over time, or change in response to something, instead of being '30' the whole time.

Always have references handy, and use them liberally. But I also suggest taking a good stab at solving issues yourself, or at least trying to visualize the solution before referring to the internet. Language learning is a mix of learning and application, and vocabulary really sticks when you are able to apply what you've learned successfully right out of your memory. Also take notes during class and save the code from class even if you followed along with the code during class! You never know when you might need to refer to a technique you learned weeks ago, and it's so easy to make small errors when following along in class, meanwhile the professor's uploaded code is sure to be correct.