

Learning Option	What	Advantages	Disadvantages	Resources/How-to
Read a book	Books on any domain can provide comprehensive knowledge on the subject from beginning to end.	Detailed, structured, can learn at your own pace starting from scratch to advance level. Deep, comprehensive knowledge. Encourages independent thought.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Time consuming - Can be theoretical, might not offer practical experience. - Some books are Paid - Free books are always often too old - Requires motivation and self-discipline. 	<p>Libraries, bookstores, eBooks. Plan by setting reading goals.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Go to Amazon or other book stores 2. Search your interested domain in Amazon. 3. Filter the result by 'Publication date'. 4. Order book. 5. Read. <p>Review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Author history - Starts of the book - Table of contents
YouTube Playlist	Watching a series of videos on YouTube about a specific topic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Easy way to grasp topic. - Free & easy access. - Flexible. Wide variety of content. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Depending upon channel creators' views and opinions, the study approach can vary. - No. of topic coverage & in-depth content may also vary. <p>So, you will require to do a lot of research before selecting any particular course on YouTube as they are free.</p>	<p>YouTube, educational channels. Structure by finding a reputable source and following their content.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Search for a topic on YouTube. 2. Use YouTube's filter section. 3. Select 2 filters. 1) Type – Playlist 2) Sort by – Upload Date. <p>This will provide you the entire playlist on that topic but sorted by latest uploaded on the YouTube.</p>
ChatGPT	Interacting with AI models like ChatGPT to learn.	Accessible. Interactive learning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited to text-based interaction. Some information may be outdated. - Also it depends whether you know how to ask specific and relevant questions. - You may need to learn prompt engineering first to take out maximum from ChatGPT 	OpenAI's ChatGPT platform. Engage in Q&A sessions.
Official Certification	Some people feel that they can't feel motivated if they don't have any goals/challenges. Hence, they go for paid certifications as once they spend money, they will require to study and crack the exam in a limited timeframe. This keeps them motivated and focused on achieving the goal. Some reputed certification authorities are ISC2, eLearnSecurity, SANS/GIAC, Offensive Security, CompTIA, ISACA, and Mile2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demanded in job descriptions. - Later or sooner you will have to go for that. - Provides proof of knowledge. Recognized by employers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited time to complete lab/cert - Expiration dates for some certs. - Paid (can be expensive) 	<p>Refer to the Which certifications should I go for? Section in order to decide which certification you should go for.</p> <p>Here is the list of every single Cybersecurity certification available on their Internet categorized by cert authorities.</p>

Online Course (Pluralsight/Udemy/Coursera/Oreilly)	These are some popular portals for studying the entire course of any security domain. Trainers on these platforms are well experienced, and these portal owners also review course content. Ensure you check the ratings of the course before you select and start.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Courses you may not find on YouTube directly, can be found on these training portals. - Structured learning. Variety of topics. - Various authors for same topic so you can choose which delivery method you may like 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some courses are overrated - Some authors are overrated. - Quality content might be paid. - Quality may vary 	<p>Login and search for the free course. Enroll and learn.</p> <p>Review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Author and course rating but do your own research
Freeform well-structured self-study via Google & YouTube	Manier times, you cannot or don't want to spend money on material as it can be found via Google. So, you can follow this approach. Before starting self-study, all you need to do is select a particular field. Find a famous book on Amazon with good ratings and is not older than a maximum of 6 years. Find a table of contents of that book. E.g., You found a book on Amazon.com. Refer to its table of contents what all they will teach in that book. Then Google each topic, read, and study. Watch practical/theory explanation videos from YouTube. Prepare your notes.	You can become more proactive in terms of grasping different knowledge but filtering the best information to your brain.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can be time consuming - Will be hard to different author's knowledge when you search them on various portals each week. 	Explained in the Why section.
Self-Learning Projects	Embarking on a personal project related to the field of interest.	Practical application. Personalized learning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No guidance. - Success depends on self-motivation. 	Personal interest. Create a project plan and follow through.
Podcasts	Listening to podcasts about a specific subject.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Convenient learning while multitasking (You can listen it while travelling or doing some other work). - Saves time due to multi-tasking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Passive learning. Depth of knowledge may vary. - Follow up practice and practical is required 	<p>Podcast platforms like Spotify, Apple Podcasts. Choose a series and follow episodes.</p> <p>There are specific Cybersecurity podcasts such as 'Darknet Diaries' which provide a tremendous amount of knowledge.</p>
MOOCs	Massive Open Online Courses offering structured learning on various topics.	Access to course material from top universities. Some are free.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not all provide certification. - Quality varies. 	edX, Coursera, FutureLearn. Follow the course syllabus.
Peer Learning Groups	Joining or forming a group to learn together.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collaborative learning. - Immediate feedback. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scheduling conflicts. - Group dynamics may vary. 	Meetup, student groups. Schedule regular meetings and follow a study plan.
Tutoring/Coaching	Hiring a tutor or coach for personalised guidance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tailored learning plan. - Individual attention. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can be expensive. - Quality depends on the tutor. 	Tutoring platforms. Schedule regular sessions.
Webinars	Attending live online workshops or seminars.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interactive learning. - Access to experts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fixed timing. (But have recorded sessions) - Could be so many webinars on one topic, methods, and education may vary even though intension is same from delivery person - Quality varies. 	Webinar platforms. Attend live sessions and interact.
Internships/Apprenticeships	Learning on the job through internships or apprenticeships.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Real-world experience. - Potential for job offers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unpaid or low pay. - Quality of learning depends on the job especially services they offer, clients they have, team structure and 	Company websites. Apply for internships and complete assigned tasks.

			<p>overall experience in the team they have.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Internships are hard to get 	
Conferences/Workshops	Attending conferences or workshops related to your field.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Networking opportunities. - Exposure to latest trends. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can be expensive. - Travel may be required everytime. 	Event platforms. Attend sessions and engage in discussions.
Online Forums/Communities	Participating in online forums or communities of learners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Peer support. - Diverse perspectives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quality of advice varies. 	Reddit, StackExchange. Engage in discussions and ask questions.
Social Media Learning	Following influencers, joining groups or pages on social media related to your field.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Free. - Informal learning. 	Quality and reliability of information can vary.	LinkedIn Learning, Facebook groups. Follow, engage and participate in discussions.