DEVELOPER SKILLS & EDITOR SETUP

THE COMPLETE JAVASCRIPT COURSE

FROM ZERO TO EXPERT!

SECTION

DEVELOPER SKILLS & EDITOR SETUP

LECTURE

LEARNING HOW TO CODE

HOW TO FAIL 🤦 AT LEARNING HOW TO CODE

John
(not actually…)

- He **didn’t have a clear goal** at the beginning of his journey
- He started by watching courses and reading tutorials, but he would just **copy the code without caring how it works**. Sometimes he would just copy and paste code!
- He **didn’t reinforce** what he was learning by doing small challenges or taking notes
- He **didn’t practice coding**, and didn’t come up with his own project ideas
- He **quickly became frustrated** when his code was not perfectly clean or efficient
- He **lost motivation** because he thought he could never know everything
- He was **learning in isolation**
- After finishing a couple of courses, **he thought he now was a web developer** and could start applying to jobs. But he couldn’t even build an app on his own!

HOW TO SUCCEED AT LEARNING HOW TO CODE

💥 He **didn't have a clear goal** at the beginning of his journey

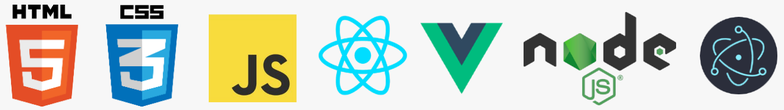
⬇ **FIX**

👍 Set a **specific**, **measurable**, **realistic** and **time-based** goal

👍 Know exactly **why** you are learning to code: Switching careers? Finding a better job?

👍 **Imagine a big project** you want to be able to build!

👍 Research technologies you need and then learn them



💥 He would just **copy the code without caring how it works**. Sometimes he would just copy and paste code!

⬇ **FIX**

👍 Understand the code that you're studying and typing

👍 **Always type the code**, don't copy-paste!

💥 He **didn't reinforce** what he was learning by doing small challenges or taking notes

⬇ **FIX**

👍 After you learn a new feature or concept, **use it immediately**

👍 Take notes

👍 **Challenge yourself** and practice with small coding exercises and challenges

👍 Don't be in a hurry to complete the course fast!

codewars

HOW TO SUCCEED AT LEARNING HOW TO CODE

💥 He **didn't practice coding**, and didn't come up with his own project ideas

⬇ **FIX**

👍 Practicing on your own is the most important thing to do

👍 **This is NOT optional!** Without **practice outside of courses**, you won't go anywhere!

👍 Come up with your own project ideas or copy popular sites or applications, or just parts of them in the beginning

👍 Don't be stuck in "tutorial hell"

💥 He **quickly became frustrated** when his code was not perfectly clean or efficient

⬇ **FIX**

👍 **Don't get stuck** trying to write the perfect code!

👍 Just write tons of code, **no matter the quality!**

👍 Clean and efficient code will come with time

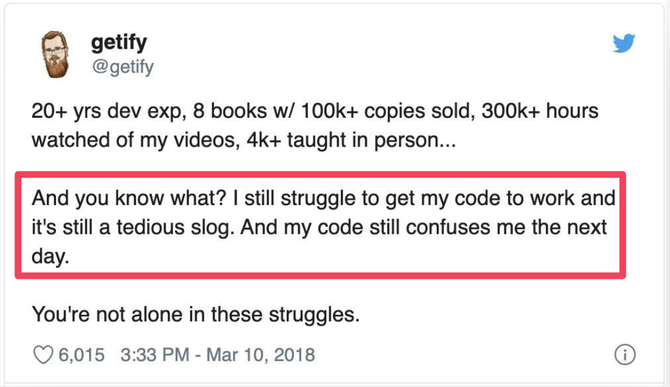
👍 You can always refactor code later

💥 He **lost motivation** because he thought he could never know everything

⬇ **FIX**

👍 Embrace the fact that **you will never you know everything**

👍 Just focus on what you need to achieve your goal!



HOW TO SUCCEED AT LEARNING HOW TO CODE

💥 He was **learning in isolation**

⬇ **FIX**

👍 Explain new concepts to other people. If you can explain it, you truly understand it!

👍 Share your goals to make **yourself accountable**

👍 Share your learning progress with the web dev community (#100DaysOfCode,  #CodeNewbie, #webdev, etc.)

💥 After finishing a couple of courses, **he thought he now was a web developer** and could start applying to jobs

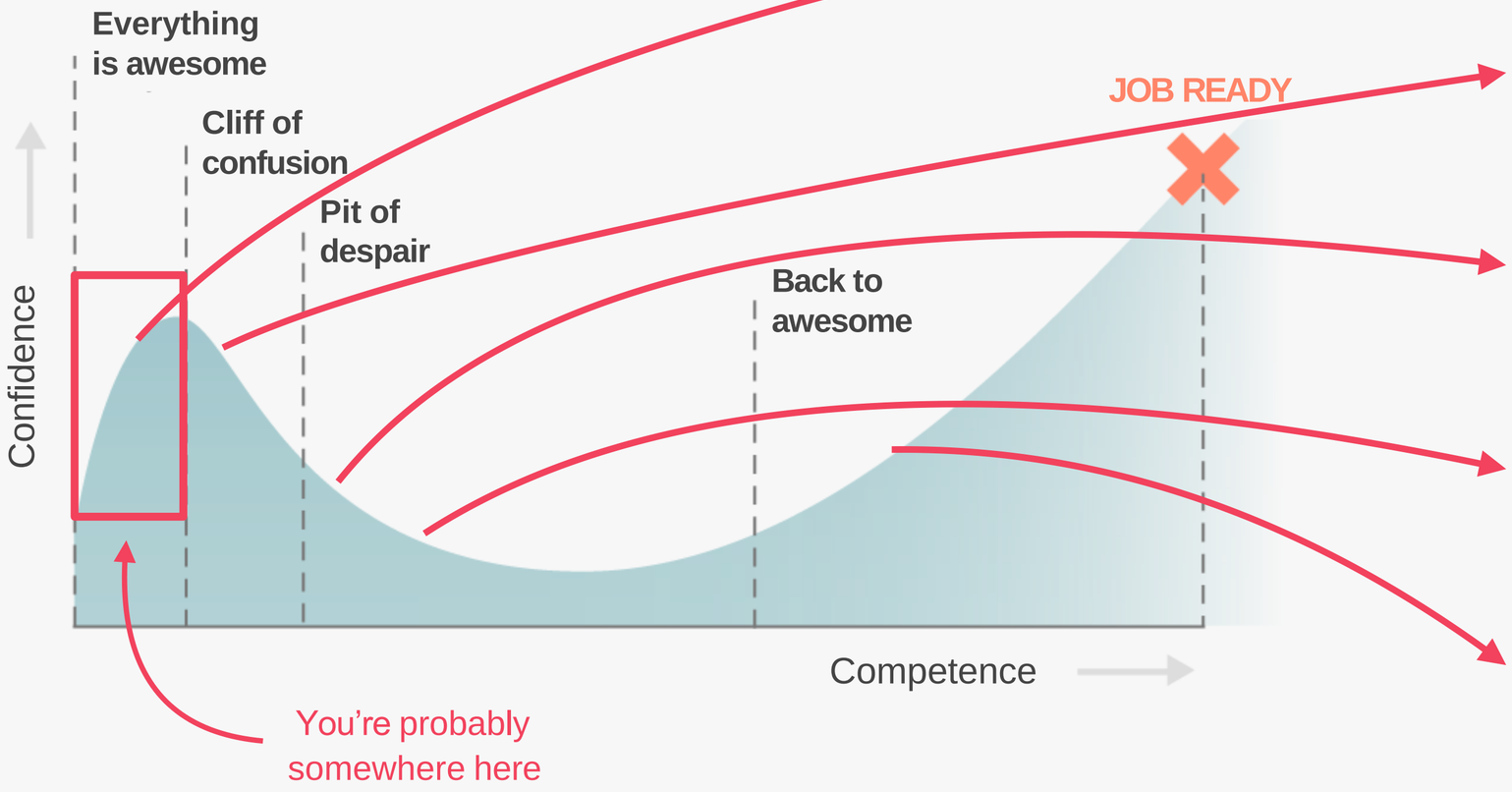
⬇ **FIX**

👍 The **biggest misconception** that people have!

👍 Courses are an amazing starting point, but are only the **beginning of your journey**!

NEXT SLIDE ➡

LEARNING HOW TO CODE IS HARD, BUT YOU CAN DO IT!



Study courses: understand code, take challenges and notes

↓

Stay motivated! Keep writing lots of code on your own, no matter how bad

↓

Learn with other people, devs and beginners, and share progress

↓

Keep challenging yourself, run into lots of problems, and fix them

↓

Round up your skillset with best practices and tools (git, testing, …)

↓

JOB READY
(But the learning never stops 😅)

Source: https://www.thinkful.com/blog/why-learning-to-code-is-so-damn-hard/

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HOW TO THINK LIKE A DEVELOPER: BECOME A PROBLEM SOLVER!

HOW TO FAIL AT SOLVING PROBLEMS 🤦

John can code now 😄

WHENEVER JOHN ENCOUNTERS A PROBLEM:

- 💥 He jumps at the problem **without much thinking**
- 💥 He implements his solution in an **unstructured way**
- 💥 He **gets stressed out** when things don't work
- 💥 He is **too proud to research** solutions

👉 **Example:** *In an array of GPS coordinates, find the two closest points*

FIX

- 👍 **Stay calm and slow down**, don't just jump at a problem without a plan
- 👍 Take a very **logical and rational approach** (programming is just logic, in the end…)
- 👍 Use my **4-step framework** to solve any problem

NEXT SLIDE

4 STEPS TO SOLVE ANY PROBLEM

1

Make sure you 100% understand the problem. **Ask the right questions** to get a clear picture of the problem

EXAMPLE

💬 Project Manager: *“We need a function that reverses whatever we pass into it”*

1

- 👉 What does “whatever” even mean in this context? What should be reversed? **Answer:** Only strings, numbers, and arrays make sense to reverse...
- 👉 What to do if something else is passed in?
- 👉 What should be returned? Should it always be a string, or should the type be the same as passed in?
- 👉 How to recognize whether the argument is a number, a string, or an array?
- 👉 How to reverse a number, a string, and an array?

4 STEPS TO SOLVE ANY PROBLEM

1. Make sure you 100% understand the problem. **Ask the right questions** to get a clear picture of the problem

↓

2. **Divide and conquer:** Break a big problem into smaller sub-problems.

EXAMPLE

💬 Project Manager: *"We need a function that reverses whatever we pass into it"*

2 **SUB-PROBLEMS:**

- 👉 Check if argument is a number, a string, or an array
- 👉 Implement reversing a number
- 👉 Implement reversing a string
- 👉 Implement reversing an array
- 👉 Return reversed value

Looks like a task list that we need to implement

4 STEPS TO SOLVE ANY PROBLEM

1. Make sure you 100% understand the problem. **Ask the right questions** to get a clear picture of the problem

↓

2. **Divide and conquer:** Break a big problem into smaller sub-problems.

↓

3. Don't be afraid to do as much **research** as you have to

EXAMPLE

💬 Project Manager: *"We need a function that reverses whatever we pass into it"*

3

- 👉 How to check if a value is a number in JavaScript?
- 👉 How to check if a value is a string in JavaScript?
- 👉 How to check if a value is an array in JavaScript?
- 👉 How to reverse a number in JavaScript?
- 👉 How to reverse a string in JavaScript?
- 👉 How to reverse an array in JavaScript?

Google stackoverflow MDN web docs moz://a

4 STEPS TO SOLVE ANY PROBLEM

1. Make sure you 100% understand the problem. **Ask the right questions** to get a clear picture of the problem

↓

2. **Divide and conquer:** Break a big problem into smaller sub-problems.

↓

3. Don't be afraid to do as much **research** as you have to

↓

4. For bigger problems, **write pseudo-code** before writing the actual code

EXAMPLE

💬 Project Manager: *"We need a function that reverses whatever we pass into it"*

4

```
function reverse(value)
 if value type !string && !number && !array
  return value

 if value type == string
  reverse string
 if value type == number
  reverse number
 if value type == array
  reverse array

 return reversed value
```