Learn Ruby the HARD WAY

A Simple and Idiomatic Introduction to the Imaginative World of Computational Thinking with Code

Zed A. Shaw
LEARN RUBY
THE HARD WAY

Third Edition
Zed Shaw’s Hard Way Series emphasizes instruction and making things as the best way to get started in many computer science topics. Each book in the series is designed around short, understandable exercises that take you through a course of instruction that creates working software. All exercises are thoroughly tested to verify they work with real students, thus increasing your chance of success. The accompanying video walks you through the code in each exercise. Zed adds a bit of humor and inside jokes to make you laugh while you’re learning.
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## Contents

Preface ......................................................... 1  
Acknowledgments ............................................ 1  
The Hard Way Is Easier  ..................................... 2  
Reading and Writing ....................................... 2  
Attention to Detail ......................................... 2  
Spotting Differences ...................................... 3  
Do Not Copy-Paste ......................................... 3  
Using the Included Videos ................................. 3  
A Note on Practice and Persistence ....................... 3  
A Warning for the Smarties ................................. 4  

Exercise 0 The Setup ..................................... 6  
Mac OS X .................................................. 6  
  OS X: What You Should See ............................. 7  
Windows .................................................... 7  
  Windows: What You Should See ......................... 8  
Linux ....................................................... 8  
  Linux: What You Should See ............................ 9  
Finding Things on the Internet ......................... 10  
Warnings for Beginners .................................. 10  

Exercise 1 A Good First Program ....................... 12  
What You Should See ..................................... 14  
Study Drills ............................................... 16  
Common Student Questions ............................... 17  

Exercise 2 Comments and Pound Characters ........... 18  
What You Should See ..................................... 18  
Study Drills ............................................... 18  
Common Student Questions ............................... 19  

Exercise 3 Numbers and Math ............................ 20  
What You Should See ..................................... 21  
Study Drills ............................................... 21  
Common Student Questions ............................... 22
CONTENTS

Exercise 4 Variables and Names ........................................... 24
What You Should See ....................................................... 25
Study Drills ................................................................. 25
Common Student Questions .............................................. 25
Exercise 5 More Variables and Printing ................................. 28
What You Should See ....................................................... 28
Study Drills ................................................................. 29
Common Student Questions .............................................. 29
Exercise 6 Strings and Text .................................................. 30
What You Should See ....................................................... 31
Study Drills ................................................................. 31
Common Student Question ............................................... 31
Exercise 7 More Printing ..................................................... 32
What You Should See ....................................................... 32
Study Drills ................................................................. 33
Common Student Questions .............................................. 33
Exercise 8 Printing, Printing ................................................ 34
What You Should See ....................................................... 34
Study Drills ................................................................. 35
Common Student Questions .............................................. 35
Exercise 9 Printing, Printing, Printing ................................. 36
What You Should See ....................................................... 36
Study Drills ................................................................. 37
Common Student Questions .............................................. 37
Exercise 10 What Was That? ................................................ 38
What You Should See ....................................................... 39
Escape Sequences .......................................................... 39
Study Drills ................................................................. 40
Common Student Questions .............................................. 40
Exercise 11 Asking Questions ................................................ 42
What You Should See ....................................................... 42
Study Drills ................................................................. 43
Common Student Question ............................................... 43
Exercise 12 Prompting People for Numbers ......................... 44
What You Should See ....................................................... 44
Study Drills ................................................................. 44
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exercise</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Parameters, Unpacking, Variables</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What You Should See</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Study Drills</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Common Student Questions</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Prompting and Passing</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What You Should See</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Study Drills</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Common Student Questions</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Reading Files</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What You Should See</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Study Drills</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Common Student Questions</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Reading and Writing Files</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What You Should See</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Study Drills</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Common Student Questions</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>More Files</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What You Should See</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Study Drills</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Common Student Questions</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Names, Variables, Code, Functions</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What You Should See</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Study Drills</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Common Student Questions</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Functions and Variables</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What You Should See</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Study Drills</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Common Student Questions</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Functions and Files</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What You Should See</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Study Drills</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Common Student Questions</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Functions Can Return Something</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What You Should See</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Study Drills</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Common Student Questions</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercise</td>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>What Do You Know So Far?</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What You Are Learning</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Read Some Code</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>More Practice</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What You Should See</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Study Drills</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Common Student Questions</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Even More Practice</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What You Should See</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Study Drills</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Common Student Questions</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Congratulations, Take a Test!</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Common Student Questions</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Memorizing Logic</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Truth Terms</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Truth Tables</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Common Student Question</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Boolean Practice</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What You Should See</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Study Drills</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Common Student Questions</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>What If</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What You Should See</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Study Drills</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Common Student Question</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Else and If</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What You Should See</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Study Drills</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Common Student Question</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Making Decisions</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What You Should See</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Study Drills</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Common Student Questions</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Loops and Arrays</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What You Should See</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercise</td>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>While Loops</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What You Should See</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Study Drills</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Common Student Questions</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Accessing Elements of Arrays</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Study Drills</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Branches and Functions</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What You Should See</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Study Drills</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Common Student Questions</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Designing and Debugging</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rules for If-Statements</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rules for Loops</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tips for Debugging</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>Symbol Review</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Keywords</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Data Types</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>String Escape Sequences</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Operators</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reading Code</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Study Drills</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Common Student Question</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>Doing Things to Arrays</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What You Should See</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What Arrays Can Do</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>When to Use Arrays</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Study Drills</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Common Student Questions</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>Hashes, Oh Lovely Hashes</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A Hash Example</td>
<td>133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What You Should See</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What Hashes Can Do</td>
<td>136</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CONTENTS

Making Your Own Hash Module ........................................ 136
The Code Description ..................................................... 140
Three Levels of Arrays ................................................... 142
What You Should See (Again) ........................................... 142
When to Use Hashes or Arrays ........................................ 143
Study Drills ............................................................... 143
Common Student Questions ............................................. 144

Exercise 40 Modules, Classes, and Objects .......................... 146
  Modules Are Like Hashes ............................................... 146
  Classes Are Like Modules ............................................. 148
  Objects Are Like Require ............................................. 148
  Getting Things from Things ......................................... 150
  A First Class Example ................................................ 150
  What You Should See ................................................ 151
  Study Drills ........................................................... 151
  Common Student Question ............................................ 151

Exercise 41 Learning to Speak Object Oriented ...................... 152
  Word Drills ........................................................... 152
  Phrase Drills ........................................................ 152
  Combined Drills ........................................................ 153
  A Reading Test ........................................................ 153
  Practice English to Code .............................................. 156
  Reading More Code .................................................... 156
  Common Student Questions ......................................... 156

Exercise 42 Is-A, Has-A, Objects, and Classes ....................... 158
  How This Looks in Code .............................................. 159
  Study Drills ........................................................... 161
  Common Student Questions ............................................ 161

Exercise 43 Basic Object-Oriented Analysis and Design ............ 164
  The Analysis of a Simple Game Engine ............................. 165
    Write or Draw about the Problem .................................. 165
    Extract Key Concepts and Research Them ......................... 166
    Create a Class Hierarchy and Object Map for the Concepts ... 167
    Code the Classes and a Test to Run Them ....................... 168
CONTENTS

What You Should See ............................................. 201
Study Drills ......................................................... 202
Common Student Questions ................................. 202

Exercise 48 Advanced User Input ....................... 204
Our Game Lexicon .................................................. 204
     Breaking Up a Sentence .................................. 205
     Lexicon Tuples ............................................... 205
     Scanning Input ............................................... 205
     Exceptions and Numbers .................................... 206
A Test First Challenge ......................................... 206
What You Should Test .......................................... 207
Study Drills ......................................................... 209
Common Student Questions ................................. 210

Exercise 49 Making Sentences ......................... 212
Match and Peek .................................................... 212
The Sentence Grammar ......................................... 213
A Word on Exceptions .......................................... 213
The Parser Code ................................................... 213
Playing with the Parser ....................................... 216
What You Should Test .......................................... 217
Study Drills ......................................................... 217
Common Student Question ................................. 217

Exercise 50 Your First Website ......................... 218
Installing Sinatra .................................................. 218
Make a Simple “Hello World” Project .................. 219
What’s Happening Here? ....................................... 220
Stopping and Reloading Sinatra ......................... 221
Fixing Errors ....................................................... 221
Create Basic Templates ....................................... 222
Study Drills ......................................................... 223
Common Student Questions ................................. 223

Exercise 51 Getting Input from a Browser .......... 224
How the Web Works .............................................. 224
How Forms Work .................................................. 226
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creating HTML Forms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creating a Layout Template</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing Automated Tests for Forms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study Drills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Student Question</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Exercise 52</strong> The Start of Your Web Game</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refactoring the Exercise 43 Game</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sessions and Tracking Users</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creating an Engine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your Final Exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Next Steps</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How to Learn Any Programming Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Advice from an Old Programmer</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Appendix</strong> Command Line Crash Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction: Shut Up and Shell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How to Use This Appendix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You Will Be Memorizing Things</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Setup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do This</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You Learned This</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do More</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paths, Folders, and Directories (pwd)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do This</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You Learned This</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do More</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If You Get Lost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do This</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You Learned This</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make a Directory (mkdir)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do This</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You Learned This</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do More</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change Directory (cd)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do This</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>You Learned This</td>
<td>263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do More</td>
<td>264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List Directory (ls)</td>
<td>264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do This</td>
<td>264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You Learned This</td>
<td>269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do More</td>
<td>269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remove Directory (rm)</td>
<td>269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do This</td>
<td>270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You Learned This</td>
<td>272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do More</td>
<td>272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moving Around (pushd, popd)</td>
<td>273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do This</td>
<td>273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You Learned This</td>
<td>275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do More</td>
<td>275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Making Empty Files (Touch, New-Item)</td>
<td>276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do This</td>
<td>276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You Learned This</td>
<td>277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do More</td>
<td>277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copy a File (cp)</td>
<td>277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do This</td>
<td>277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You Learned This</td>
<td>280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do More</td>
<td>281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moving a File (mv)</td>
<td>281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do This</td>
<td>281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You Learned This</td>
<td>283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do More</td>
<td>283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>View a File (less, MORE)</td>
<td>283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do This</td>
<td>284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You Learned This</td>
<td>284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do More</td>
<td>284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stream a File (cat)</td>
<td>285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do This</td>
<td>285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You Learned This</td>
<td>286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do More</td>
<td>286</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Removing a File (rm) ........................................ 286
Do This ......................................................... 286
You Learned This ............................................. 288
Do More ......................................................... 289
Exiting Your Terminal (exit) .............................. 289
Do This ......................................................... 289
You Learned This ............................................. 289
Do More ......................................................... 289
Command Line Next Steps ................................. 290
UNIX Bash References ..................................... 290
PowerShell References ..................................... 290
Index ............................................................. 291
This page intentionally left blank
Preface

This simple book is meant to get you started in programming. The title says it’s the hard way to learn to write code, but it’s actually not. It’s only the “hard” way because it uses a technique called instruction. Instruction is where I tell you to do a sequence of controlled exercises designed to build a skill through repetition. This technique works very well with beginners, who know nothing and need to acquire basic skills before they can understand more complex topics. It’s used in everything from martial arts to music, to even basic math and reading skills.

This book instructs you in Ruby by slowly building and establishing skills through techniques like practice and memorization, then applying them to increasingly difficult problems. By the end of the book you will have the tools needed to begin learning more complex programming topics. I like to tell people that my book gives you your “programming black belt.” What this means is that you know the basics well enough to now start learning programming.

If you work hard, take your time, and build these skills, you will learn to code.

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank Angela for helping me with the first two versions of this book. Without her, I probably wouldn’t have bothered to finish it at all. She did the copyediting of the first draft, and supported me immensely while I wrote it.

I also want to thank Rob Sobers for suggesting I make a Ruby version of my Python book and doing the initial work helping me convert it to use Ruby.

I’d also like to thank Greg Newman for doing the original cover art, Brian Shumate for early website designs, and all of the people who read this book and took the time to send me feedback and corrections.

Thank you.
The Hard Way Is Easier

With the help of this book, you will do the incredibly simple things that all programmers do to learn a programming language:

1. Go through each exercise.
2. Type in each sample exactly.
3. Make it run.

That's it. This will be very difficult at first, but stick with it. If you go through this book, and do each exercise for one or two hours a night, you will have a good foundation for moving onto another book about Ruby to continue your studies. This book won't turn you into a programmer overnight, but it will get you started on the path to learning how to code.

This book's job is to teach you the three most essential skills that a beginning programmer needs to know: reading and writing, attention to detail, and spotting differences.

Reading and Writing

If you have a problem typing, you will have a problem learning to code, and especially if you have a problem typing the fairly odd characters in source code. Without this simple skill you will be unable to learn even the most basic things about how software works.

Typing the code samples and getting them to run will help you learn the names of the symbols, get familiar with typing them, and get you reading the language.

Attention to Detail

The one skill that separates bad programmers from good programmers is attention to detail. In fact, it's what separates the good from the bad in any profession. You must pay attention to the tiniest details of your work or you will miss important elements of what you create. In programming, this is how you end up with bugs and difficult-to-use systems.

By going through this book, and copying each example exactly, you will be training your brain to focus on the details of what you are doing, as you are doing it.
Spotting Differences

A very important skill (that most programmers develop over time) is the ability to visually notice differences between things. An experienced programmer can take two pieces of code that are slightly different and immediately start pointing out the differences. Programmers have invented tools to make this even easier, but we won’t be using any of these. You first have to train your brain the hard way; then use the tools.

While you do these exercises, typing each one in, you will be making mistakes. It’s inevitable; even seasoned programmers would make a few. Your job is to compare what you have written to what’s required, and fix all the differences. By doing so, you will train yourself to notice mistakes, bugs, and other problems.

Do Not Copy-Paste

You must type each of these exercises in, manually. If you copy and paste, you might as well not even do them. The point of these exercises is to train your hands, your brain, and your mind in how to read, write, and see code. If you copy-paste, you are cheating yourself out of the effectiveness of the lessons.

Using the Included Videos

Learn Ruby the Hard Way has more than five hours of instructional videos to help you with the book. There is one video for each exercise where I either demonstrate the exercise, or give you tips for completing the exercise. The best way to use the videos is if you are stuck when attempting an exercise or for review after you have completed an exercise. This will slowly wean you off of using videos to learn programming and build your skills at understanding code directly. Stick with it, and slowly you won’t need the videos, or any videos, to learn programming. You’ll be able to just read for the information you need.

A Note on Practice and Persistence

While you are studying programming, I’m studying how to play guitar. I practice it every day for at least two hours. I play scales, chords, and arpeggios for an hour; and then I learn music theory, ear training, songs, and anything else I can. Some days I study guitar and music for eight hours because I feel like it and it’s fun. To me, repetitive practice is natural and just how to learn something. I know that to get good at anything I have to practice every day, even if I suck that day (which is often) or it’s difficult. Keep trying and eventually it’ll be easier and fun.
Between the time that I wrote Learn Python the Hard Way and Learn Ruby the Hard Way, I discovered drawing and painting. I fell in love with making visual art at the age of 39; and I have been spending every day studying it in much the same way that I studied guitar, music, and programming. I collected books of instructional material, did what the books said, painted every day, and focused on enjoying the process of learning. I am by no means an “artist,” or even that good, but I can now say that I can draw and paint. The same method I’m teaching you in this book applied to my adventures in art. If you break the problem down into small exercises and lessons, and do them every day, you can learn to do almost anything. If you focus on slowly improving and enjoying the learning process, then you will benefit no matter how good you are at it.

As you study this book, and continue with programming, remember that anything worth doing is difficult at first. Maybe you are the kind of person who is afraid of failure, so you give up at the first sign of difficulty. Maybe you never learned self-discipline, so you can’t do anything that’s “boring.” Maybe you were told that you are “gifted,” so you never attempt anything that might make you seem stupid or not a prodigy. Maybe you are competitive and unfairly compare yourself to someone like me who’s been programming for more than 20 years.

Whatever your reason for wanting to quit, keep at it. Force yourself. If you run into a Study Drill you can’t do, or a lesson you just do not understand, then skip it and come back to it later. Just keep going, because with programming there’s this very odd thing that happens. At first, you will not understand anything. It’ll be weird, just like with learning any human language. You will struggle with words, and not know what symbols are what, and it’ll all be very confusing. Then one day BANG—your brain will snap and you will suddenly “get it.” If you keep doing the exercises and keep trying to understand them, you will get it. You might not be a master coder, but you will at least understand how programming works.

If you give up, you won’t ever reach this point. You will hit the first confusing thing (which is everything at first) and then stop. If you keep trying—keep typing it in, trying to understand it and reading about it—you will eventually get it. If you go through this whole book, and you still do not understand how to code, at least you gave it a shot. You can say you tried your best and a little more and it didn’t work out, but at least you tried. You can be proud of that.

A Warning for the Smarties

Sometimes people who already know a programming language will read this book and feel I’m insulting them. There is nothing in this book that is intended to be interpreted as condescending, insulting, or belittling. I simply know more about programming than my intended readers. If you think you are smarter than me, then you will feel talked down to and there’s nothing I can do about that because you are not my intended reader.
If you are reading this book and flipping out at every third sentence because you feel I'm insulting your intelligence, then I have three points of advice for you:

1. Stop reading my book. I didn’t write it for you. I wrote it for people who don’t already know everything.

2. Empty before you fill. You will have a hard time learning from someone with more knowledge if you already know everything.

3. Go learn Lisp. I hear people who know everything really like Lisp.

For everyone else who’s here to learn, just read everything as if I’m smiling and I have a mischievous little twinkle in my eye.
A Good First Program

You should have spent a good amount of time in Exercise 0 learning how to install a text editor, run the text editor, run Terminal, and work with both of them. If you haven't done that, then do not go on. You will not have a good time. This is the only time I'll start an exercise with a warning that you should not skip or get ahead of yourself.

Type the following text into a single file named `ex1.rb`. Ruby works best with files ending in `.rb`.

```ruby
puts "Hello World!"
puts "Hello Again"
puts "I like typing this."
puts "This is fun."
puts "Yay! Printing."
puts "I'd much rather you 'not'."
puts "I "said" do not touch this."
```

If you are on Mac OS X, then this is what your text editor might look like if you use TextWrangler:

![TextWrangler interface with `ex1.rb` file open showing the code above]
If you are on Windows using Notepad++, then this is what it would look like:

Don’t worry if your editor doesn’t look exactly the same, it should be close though. When you create this file, keep in mind these points:

1. I did not type the line numbers on the left. Those are printed in the book so I can talk about specific lines by saying, “See line 5.” You do not type line numbers into Ruby scripts.

2. I have the `puts` at the beginning of the line and it looks exactly the same as what I have in `ex1.rb`. Exactly means exactly, not kind of sort of the same. Every single character has to match for it to work. Color doesn’t matter, only the characters you type.

In Terminal run the file by typing:

```
ruby ex1.rb
```

If you did it right, then you should see the same output as in the What You Should See section of this exercise. If not, you have done something wrong. No, the computer is not wrong.
What You Should See

On Mac OS X in Terminal you should see this:

```
$ ruby ex1.rb
Hello World!
Hello Again
I like typing this.
This is fun.
Yay! Printing.
I'd must rather you 'not'.
I "said" do not touch this.
$ 
```
On Windows in PowerShell you should see this:

```
PS C:\Users\zed\lrthw> ruby ex1.rb
Hello World!
Hello Again
I like typing this.
This is fun.
Yay! Printing.
I'd must rather you 'not'.
I "said" do not touch this.
PS C:\Users\zed\lrthw>
```

You may see different names before the `ruby ex1.rb` command, but the important part is that you type the command and see the output is the same as mine.
If you have an error, it will look like this:

```ruby
> ruby ex1.rb
ex1.rb:3: syntax error, unexpected tCONSTANT, expecting $end
  puts "I like typing this."
```

It's important that you can read these error messages, because you will be making many of these mistakes. Even I make many of these mistakes. Let's look at this line by line.

1. We ran our command in Terminal to run the `ex1.rb` script.
2. Ruby tells us that the file `ex1.rb` has an error on line 3. The type of error is "syntax error," and then some programmer jargon you can usually ignore.
3. It prints the offending line of code for us to see.

---

**WARNING!** If you are from another country, and you get errors about ASCII encodings, then put this at the top of your Ruby scripts:

```ruby
# encoding: utf-8
```

It will fix them so that you can use Unicode UTF-8 in your scripts without a problem.

---

**Study Drills**

The Study Drills contain things you should try to do. If you can't, skip it and come back later.

For this exercise, try these things:

1. Make your script print another line.
2. Make your script print only one of the lines.
3. Put a `#` (octothorpe) character at the beginning of a line. What did it do? Try to find out what this character does.

From now on, I won’t explain how each exercise works unless an exercise is different.

---

**NOTE:** An “octothorpe” is also called a “pound,” “hash,” “mesh,” or any number of names. Pick the one that makes you chill out.
Common Student Questions

These are actual questions that real students have asked when doing this exercise.

**How do you get colors in your editor?**
Save your file first as a .rb file, such as ex1.rb. Then you’ll have color when you type.

**I get ruby: No such file or directory - ex1.rb (LoadError).**
You need to be in the same directory as the file you created. Make sure you use the `cd` command to go there first. For example, if you saved your file in `lrthw/ex1.rb`, then you would type `cd lrthw/` before trying to run `ruby ex1.rb`. If you don’t know what any of that means, then go through Appendix A.
Comments and Pound Characters

Comments are very important in your programs. They are used to tell you what something does in English, and they are used to disable parts of your program if you need to remove them temporarily. Here’s how you use comments in Ruby:

```ruby
ex2.rb
1 # A comment, this is so you can read your program later.
2 # Anything after the # is ignored by ruby.
3 puts "I could have code like this." # and the comment after is ignored
4 # You can also use a comment to "disable" or comment out a piece of code:
5 # puts "This won't run."
6 puts "This will run."
```

From now on, I’m going to write code like this. It is important for you to understand that everything does not have to be literal. Your screen and program may visually look different, but what’s important is the text you type into the file you’re writing in your text editor. In fact, I could work with any text editor and the results would be the same.

What You Should See

```bash
$ ruby ex2.rb
I could have code like this.
This will run.
```

Again, I’m not going to show you screenshots of all the Terminals possible. You should understand that the above is not a literal translation of what your output should look like visually, but the text between the first $ ruby ... and last $ lines will be what you focus on.

Study Drills

1. Find out if you were right about what the # character does and make sure you know what it’s called (octothorpe or pound character).
2. Take your `ex2.rb` file and review each line going backward. Start at the last line, and check each word in reverse against what you should have typed.
3. Did you find more mistakes? Fix them.

4. Read what you typed out loud, including saying each character by its name. Did you find more mistakes? Fix them.

Common Student Questions

Are you sure # is called the pound character?
I call it the octothorpe because that is the only name that no country uses, and that works in every country. Every country thinks its name for this one character is both the most important way to do it and the only way it’s done. To me, this is simply arrogance and, really, y’all should just chill out and focus on more important things like learning to code.

If # is for comments, then how come # -*- coding: utf-8 -*- works?
Ruby still ignores that as code, but it’s used as a kind of “hack” or workaround for problems with setting and detecting the format of a file. You will also find a similar kind of comment for editor settings.

Why does the # in puts "Hi # there." not get ignored?
The # in that code is inside a string, so it will be put into the string until the ending " character is hit. These pound characters are just considered characters and aren’t considered comments.

How do I comment out multiple lines?
Put a # in front of each one.

I can’t figure out how to type a # character on my country’s keyboard.
Some countries use the Alt key and combinations of other keys to print characters foreign to their language. You’ll have to look online in a search engine to see how to type it.

Why do I have to read code backward?
It’s a trick to make your brain not attach meaning to each part of the code, and doing that makes you process each piece exactly. This catches errors and is a handy error-checking technique.
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Command Line Crash Course

This appendix is a quick, super-fast course in using the command line. It is intended to be done rapidly in about a day or two, and is not meant to teach you advanced shell usage.

Introduction: Shut Up and Shell

This appendix is a crash course in using the command line to make your computer perform tasks. As a crash course, it’s not as detailed or extensive as my other books. It is simply designed to get you barely capable enough to start using your computer like a real programmer does. When you’re done with this appendix, you will be able to give most of the basic commands that every shell user touches every day. You’ll understand the basics of directories and a few other concepts.

The only piece of advice I am going to give you is this:

Shut up and type all of this in.

Sorry to be mean, but that’s what you have to do. If you have an irrational fear of the command line, the only way to conquer an irrational fear is to just shut up and fight through it.

You are not going to destroy your computer. You are not going to be thrown into some jail at the bottom of Microsoft’s Redmond campus. Your friends won’t laugh at you for being a nerd. Simply ignore any stupid weird reasons you have for fearing the command line.

Why? Because if you want to learn to code, then you must learn this. Programming languages are advanced ways to control your computer with language. The command line is the little baby brother of programming languages. Learning the command line teaches you to control the computer using language. Once you get past that, you can then move on to writing code and feeling like you actually own the hunk of metal you just bought.

How to Use This Appendix

The best way to use this appendix is to do the following:

- Get yourself a small paper notebook and a pen.
- Start at the beginning of the appendix and do each exercise exactly as you’re told.
- When you read something that doesn’t make sense or that you don’t understand, write it down in your notebook. Leave a little space so you can write an answer.
After you finish an exercise, go back through your notebook and review the questions you have. Try to answer them by searching online and asking friends who might know the answer. Email me at help@learncodethehardway.org and I'll help you, too.

Just keep going through this process of doing an exercise, writing down questions you have, then going back through and answering the questions you can. By the time you're done, you'll actually know a lot more than you think about using the command line.

You Will Be Memorizing Things

I’m warning you ahead of time that I’m going to make you memorize things right away. This is the quickest way to get you capable at something, but for some people memorization is painful. Just fight through it and do it anyway. Memorization is an important skill in learning things, so you should get over your fear of it.

Here’s how you memorize things:

• Tell yourself you will do it. Don’t try to find tricks or easy ways out of it, just sit down and do it.

• Write what you want to memorize on some index cards. Put one half of what you need to learn on one side, then the other half on the other side.

• Every day for about 15–30 minutes, drill yourself on the index cards, trying to recall each one. Put any cards you don’t get right into a different pile, just drill those cards until you get bored, and then try the whole deck and see if you improve.

• Before you go to bed, drill just the cards you got wrong for about 5 minutes, then go to sleep.

There are other techniques, like you can write what you need to learn on a sheet of paper, laminate it, then stick it to the wall of your shower. While you’re bathing, drill the knowledge without looking, and when you get stuck glance at it to refresh your memory.

If you do this every day, you should be able to memorize most of the things I tell you to memorize in about a week to a month. Once you do, nearly everything else becomes easier and intuitive, which is the purpose of memorization. It’s not to teach you abstract concepts, but rather to ingrain the basics so that they are intuitive and you don’t have to think about them. Once you’ve memorized these basics, they stop being speed bumps preventing you from learning more advanced abstract concepts.
The Setup

In this appendix you will be instructed to do three things:

• Do some things in your shell (command line, Terminal, PowerShell).
• Learn about what you just did.
• Do more on your own.

For this first exercise, you’ll be expected to get your Terminal open and working so that you can do the rest of the appendix.

Do This

Get your Terminal, shell, or PowerShell working so you can access it quickly and know that it works.

Mac OS X

For Mac OS X you’ll need to do this:

• Hold down the command key and hit the spacebar.
• In the top right corner, the blue “search bar” will pop up.
• Type: terminal
• Click on the Terminal application that looks kind of like a black box.
• This will open Terminal.
• You can now go to your dock and CTRL-click to pull up the menu, then select Options->Keep In dock.

Now you have your Terminal open and it’s in your dock so you can get to it.

Linux

I’m assuming that if you have Linux, then you already know how to get at your Terminal. Look through the menu for your window manager for anything named “Shell” or “Terminal.”
Windows
On Windows, we’re going to use PowerShell. People used to work with a program called cmd. exe, but it’s not nearly as usable as PowerShell. If you have Windows 7 or later, do this:

- Click Start.
- In “Search programs and files” type: powershell
- Hit Enter.

If you don’t have Windows 7, you should seriously consider upgrading. If you still insist on not upgrading then you can try installing it from Microsoft’s download center. Search online to find “powershell downloads” for your version of Windows. You are on your own, though, since I don’t have Windows XP, but hopefully the PowerShell experience is the same.

You Learned This
You learned how to get your Terminal open, so you can do the rest of this appendix.

WARNING! If you have that really smart friend who already knows Linux, ignore him when he tells you to use something other than bash. I’m teaching you bash. That’s it. He will claim that zsh will give you 30 more IQ points and win you millions in the stock market. Ignore him. Your goal is to get capable enough and at this level it doesn’t matter which shell you use. The next warning is stay off IRC or other places where “hackers” hang out. They think it’s funny to hand you commands that can destroy your computer. The command rm -rf / is a classic that you must never type. Just avoid them. If you need help, make sure you get it from someone you trust and not from random idiots on the Internet.

Do More
This exercise has a large “do more” part. The other exercises are not as involved as this one, but I’m having you prime your brain for the rest of the appendix by doing some memorization. Just trust me: this will make things silky smooth later on.

Linux/Mac OS X
Take this list of commands and create index cards with the names on the left on one side, and the definitions on the other side. Drill them every day while continuing with the lessons in this appendix.
pwd  print working directory
hostname  my computer's network name
mkdir  make directory
cd  change directory
ls  list directory
rmdir  remove directory
pushd  push directory
popd  pop directory
cp  copy a file or directory
mv  move a file or directory
less  page through a file
cat  print the whole file
xargs  execute arguments
find  find files
grep  find things inside files
man  read a manual page
apropos  find which man page is appropriate
env  look at your environment
echo  print some arguments
export  export/set a new environment variable
exit  exit the shell
sudo  DANGER! become super user root DANGER!

Windows
If you're using Windows, then here's your list of commands:

pwd  print working directory
hostname  my computer's network name
mkdir  make directory
Drill, drill, drill! Drill until you can say these phrases right away when you see that word. Then drill the inverse, so that you read the phrase and know which command will do that. You’re building your vocabulary by doing this, but don’t spend so much time you go nuts and get bored.

**Paths, Folders, and Directories (pwd)**

In this exercise you learn how to print your working directory with the `pwd` command.
Do This

I'm going to teach you how to read these “sessions” that I show you. You don't have to type everything I list here, just some of the parts:

- You do not type in the $ (UNIX) or > (Windows). That's just me showing you my session so you can see what I got.
- You type in the stuff after $ or >, then hit Enter. So if I have $ pwd, you type just pwd and hit Enter.
- You can then see what I have for output followed by another $ or > prompt. That content is the output and you should see the same output.

Let's do a simple first command so you can get the hang of this:

**Linux/OS X**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exercise 2 Session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$ pwd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/Users/zedshaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Windows**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exercise 2 Windows Session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PS C:\Users\zed&gt; pwd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Path</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C:\Users\zed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PS C:\Users\zed&gt;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**WARNING!** In this appendix I need to save space so that you can focus on the important details of the commands. To do this, I'm going to strip out the first part of the prompt (the PS C:\Users\zed above) and leave just the little > part. This means your prompt won't look exactly the same, but don't worry about that.

Remember that from now on I'll include only the > to tell you that's the prompt. I'm doing the same thing for the UNIX prompts, but UNIX prompts are so varied that most people get used to $ meaning “just the prompt.”
You Learned This

Your prompt will look different from mine. You may have your user name before the $ and the name of your computer. On Windows it will probably look different, too. The key is that you see this pattern:

- There’s a prompt.
- You type a command there. In this case, it’s pwd.
- It printed something.
- Repeat.

You just learned what pwd does, which means “print working directory.” What’s a directory? It’s a folder. Folder and directory are the same thing, and they’re used interchangeably. When you open your file browser on your computer to graphically find files, you are walking through folders. Those folders are the exact same things as these “directories” we’re going to work with.

Do More

- Type pwd 20 times and each time say “print working directory.”
- Write down the path that this command gives you. Find it with your graphical file browser of choice.
- No, seriously, type it 20 times and say it out loud. Sssh. Just do it.

If You Get Lost

As you go through these instructions, you may get lost. You may not know where you are or where a file is and have no idea how to continue. To solve this problem, I am going to teach you the commands to type to stop being lost.

Whenever you get lost, it is most likely because you were typing commands and have no idea where you’ve ended up. What you should do is type pwd to print your current directory. This tells you where you are.

The next thing you need is a way of getting back to where you are safe, your home. To do this, type cd ~ and you are back in your home.
This means if you get lost at any time, you should type:

```
pwd
  
cd ~
```

The first command `pwd` tells you where you are. The second command `cd ~` takes you home so you can try again.

**Do This**

Right now figure out where you are, and then go home using `pwd` and `cd ~`. This will ensure that you are always in the right place.

**You Learned This**

How to get back to your home if you ever get lost.

**Make a Directory (mkdir)**

In this exercise you learn how to make a new directory (folder) using the `mkdir` command.

**Do This**

Remember! You need to go home first! Do your `pwd` and then `cd ~` before doing this exercise. Before you do all exercises in this appendix, always go home first!

**Linux/OS X**

```
Exercise 4 Session

$ pwd
$ cd ~
$ mkdir temp
$ mkdir temp/stuff
$ mkdir temp/stuff/things
$ mkdir -p temp/stuff/things/frank/joe/alex/john
$ 
```
Windows

Exercise 4 Windows Session

> pwd
> cd ~
> mkdir temp

Directory: C:\Users\zed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>LastWriteTime</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>d----</td>
<td>12/17/2011 9:02 AM</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>temp</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

> mkdir temp/stuff

Directory: C:\Users\zed\temp

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>LastWriteTime</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>d----</td>
<td>12/17/2011 9:02 AM</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>stuff</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

> mkdir temp/stuff/things

Directory: C:\Users\zed\temp\stuff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>LastWriteTime</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>d----</td>
<td>12/17/2011 9:03 AM</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>things</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

> mkdir temp/stuff/things/frank/joe/alex/john
You Learned This

Now we get into typing more than one command. These are all the different ways you can run `mkdir`. What does `mkdir` do? It make directories. Why are you asking that? You should be doing your index cards and getting your commands memorized. If you don’t know that “`mkdir` makes directories,” then keep working the index cards.

What does it mean to make a directory? You might call directories “folders.” They’re the same thing. All you did in this exercise is create directories inside directories inside of more directories. This is called a “path” and it’s a way of saying “first temp, then stuff, then things, and that’s where I want it.” It’s a set of directions to the computer of where you want to put something in the tree of folders (directories) that make up your computer’s hard disk.

**WARNING!** In this appendix I’m using the `/` (slash) character for all paths since it works the same on all computers now. However, Windows users need to know that you can also use the `\` (backslash) character and other Windows users will expect that at times.

Do More

- The concept of a “path” might confuse you at this point. Don’t worry. We’ll do a lot more with them and then you’ll get it.
- Make 20 other directories inside the temp directory in various levels. Go look at them with a graphical file browser.
- Make a directory with a space in the name by putting quotes around it: `mkdir "I Have Fun"
- If the temp directory already exists, then you’ll get an error. Use `cd` to change to a work directory that you can control and try it there. On Windows, Desktop is a good place.
Change Directory (cd)

In this exercise you learn how to change from one directory to another using the cd command.

Do This

I’m going to give you the instructions for these sessions one more time:

- You do not type in the $ (UNIX) or > (Windows).
- You type in the stuff after this, then hit Enter. If I have $ cd temp you just type cd temp and hit Enter.
- The output comes after you hit Enter, followed by another $ or > prompt.
- Always go home årst! Do pwd and then cd ~ so you go back to your starting point.

Linux/OS X

Exercise 5 Session

```
$ cd temp
$ pwd
~/temp
$ cd stuff
$ pwd
~/temp/stuff
$ cd things
$ pwd
~/temp/stuff/things
$ cd frank/
$ pwd
~/temp/stuff/things/frank
$ cd joe/
$ pwd
~/temp/stuff/things/frank/joe
$ cd alex/
$ pwd
~/temp/stuff/things/frank/joe/alex
$ cd john/
$ pwd
~/temp/stuff/things/frank/joe/alex/john
```
$ cd ..
$ cd..
$ pwd
~/temp/stuff/things/frank/joe
$ cd ..
$ cd..
$ pwd
~/temp/stuff/things
$ cd ../..
$ pwd
~/
$ cd temp/stuff/things/frank/joe/alex/john
$ pwd
~/temp/stuff/things/frank/joe/alex/john
$ cd ../../../..
$ pwd
~/
$

Windows

Exercise 5 Windows Session

> cd temp
> pwd

Path
----
C:\Users\zed\temp

> cd stuff
> pwd

Path
----
C:\Users\zed\temp\stuff

> cd things
```bash
> pwd
Path
----
C:\Users\zed\temp\stuff\things

> cd frank
> pwd
Path
----
C:\Users\zed\temp\stuff\things\frank

> cd joe
> pwd
Path
----
C:\Users\zed\temp\stuff\things\frank\joe

> cd alex
> pwd
Path
----
C:\Users\zed\temp\stuff\things\frank\joe\alex

> cd john
> pwd
Path
----
C:\Users\zed\temp\stuff\things\frank\joe\alex\john

> cd ..
```
You Learned This

You made all these directories in the last exercise, and now you’re just moving around inside them with the cd command. In my session, I also use pwd to check where I am, so remember not to type the output that pwd prints. For example, on line 3 you see ~/temp but that’s the output of pwd from the prompt above it. Do not type this in.

You should also see how I use the .. to move “up” in the tree and path.
Do More

A very important part of learning to use the command line interface (CLI) on a computer with a graphical user interface (GUI) is figuring out how they work together. When I started using computers, there was no "GUI" and you did everything with the DOS prompt (the CLI). Later, when computers became powerful enough that everyone could have graphics, it was simple for me to match CLI directories with GUI windows and folders.

Most people today, however, have no comprehension of the CLI, paths, and directories. In fact, it's very difficult to teach it to them and the only way to learn about the connection is for you to constantly work with the CLI until one day it clicks that things you do in the GUI will show up in the CLI.

The way you do this is by spending some time finding directories with your GUI file browser, then going to them with your CLI. This is what you'll do next.

- `cd` to the `joe` directory with one command.
- `cd` back to `temp` with one command, but not further above that.
- Find out how to `cd` to your "home directory" with one command.
- `cd` to your Documents directory, then find it with your GUI file browser (e.g., Finder, Windows Explorer, etc.).
- `cd` to your Downloads directory, then find it with your file browser.
- Find another directory with your file browser, then `cd` to it.
- Remember when you put quotes around a directory with spaces in it? You can do that with any command. For example, if you have a directory `I Have Fun`, then you can do: `cd "I Have Fun"

List Directory (ls)

In this exercise you learn how to list the contents of a directory with the `ls` command.

Do This

Before you start, make sure you `cd` back to the directory above `temp`. If you have no idea where you are, use `pwd` to figure it out and then move there.
Linux/OS X

$ cd temp
$ ls
stuff
$ cd stuff
$ ls
things
$ cd things
$ ls
frank
$ cd frank
$ ls
joe
$ cd joe
$ ls
alex
$ cd alex
$ ls
$ cd john
$ ls
$ cd..
$ ls
john
$ cd ../../
$ ls
frank
$ cd ../../../
$ ls
stuff
$

Windows

> cd temp
> ls
Directory: C:\Users\zed\temp

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>LastWriteTime</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>d----</td>
<td>12/17/2011</td>
<td>9:03 AM</td>
<td>stuff</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

> cd stuff

> ls

Directory: C:\Users\zed\temp\stuff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>LastWriteTime</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>d----</td>
<td>12/17/2011</td>
<td>9:03 AM</td>
<td>things</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

> cd things

> ls

Directory: C:\Users\zed\temp\stuff\things

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>LastWriteTime</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>d----</td>
<td>12/17/2011</td>
<td>9:03 AM</td>
<td>frank</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

> cd frank

> ls
Directory: C:\Users\zed\temp\stuff\things\frank

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>LastWriteTime</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>d----</td>
<td>12/17/2011</td>
<td>9:03 AM</td>
<td>joe</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

> cd joe
> ls

Directory: C:\Users\zed\temp\stuff\things\frank\joe

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>LastWriteTime</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>d----</td>
<td>12/17/2011</td>
<td>9:03 AM</td>
<td>alex</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

> cd alex
> ls

Directory: C:\Users\zed\temp\stuff\things\frank\joe\alex

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>LastWriteTime</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>d----</td>
<td>12/17/2011</td>
<td>9:03 AM</td>
<td>john</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

> cd john
> ls
> cd ..
> ls
Directory: C:\Users\zed\temp\stuff\things\frank\joe\alex

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>LastWriteTime</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>d----</td>
<td>12/17/2011 9:03 AM</td>
<td></td>
<td>john</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

> cd ..
> ls

Directory: C:\Users\zed\temp\stuff\things\frank\joe

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>LastWriteTime</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>d----</td>
<td>12/17/2011 9:03 AM</td>
<td></td>
<td>alex</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

> cd ../../..
> ls

Directory: C:\Users\zed\temp\stuff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>LastWriteTime</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>d----</td>
<td>12/17/2011 9:03 AM</td>
<td></td>
<td>things</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

> cd ..
> ls
You Learned This

The `ls` command lists out the contents of the directory you are currently in. You can see me use `cd` to change into different directories and then list what’s in them so I know which directory to go to next.

There are a lot of options for the `ls` command, but you’ll learn how to get help on those later when we cover the `help` command.

Do More

- *Type every one of these commands in!* You have to actually type these to learn them. Just reading them is *not* good enough. I’ll stop yelling now.
- On UNIX, try the `ls -lR` command while you’re in `temp`.
- On Windows, do the same thing with `dir -R`.
- Use `cd` to get to other directories on your computer and then use `ls` to see what’s in them.
- Update your notebook with new questions. I know you probably have some, because I’m not covering everything about this command.
- Remember that if you get lost, then use `ls` and `pwd` to figure out where you are, then go to where you need to be with `cd`.

Remove Directory (rmdir)

In this exercise you learn how to remove an empty directory.
Do This

Linux/OS X

Exercise 7 Session

```bash
$ cd temp
$ ls
stuff
$ cd stuff/things/frank/joe/alex/john/
$ cd..
$ rmdir john
$ cd..
$ rmdir alex
$ cd..
$ ls
joe
$ rmdir joe
$ cd..
$ ls
frank
$ rmdir frank
$ cd..
$ ls
things
$ rmdir things
$ cd..
$ ls
stuff
$ rmdir stuff
$ pwd
~/temp
$
```

**WARNING!** If you try to do `rmdir` on Mac OS X and it refuses to remove the directory even though you are positive it's empty, then there is actually a file in there called `.DS_Store`. In that case, type `rm -rf <dir>` instead (replace `<dir>` with the directory name).
Windows

Exercise 7 Windows Session

```
> cd temp
> ls

Directory: C:\Users\zed\temp

Mode LastWriteTime Length Name
---- ------------- ------ ----
d---- 12/17/2011 9:03 AM stuff

> cd stuff/things/frank/joe/alex/john/
> cd ..
> rmdir john
> cd ..
> rmdir alex
> cd ..
> rmdir joe
> cd ..
> rmdir frank
> cd ..
> ls

Directory: C:\Users\zed\temp\stuff

Mode LastWriteTime Length Name
---- ------------- ------ ----
d---- 12/17/2011 9:14 AM things

> rmdir things
> cd ..
> ls
```
Directory: C:s\Users\zed\temp

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>LastWriteTime</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>d----</td>
<td>12/17/2011</td>
<td>9:14 AM</td>
<td>stuff</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

> rmdir stuff
> pwd

Path
----
C:s\Users\zed\temp

> cd ..
>

You Learned This

I’m now mixing up the commands so make sure you type them exactly and pay attention. Every time you make a mistake, it’s because you aren’t paying attention. If you find yourself making many mistakes, then take a break or just quit for the day. You’ve always got tomorrow to try again.

In this example you’ll learn how to remove a directory. It’s easy. You just go to the directory right above it, then type `rmdir <dir>`, replacing `<dir>` with the name of the directory to remove.

Do More

- Make 20 more directories and remove them all.
- Make a single path of directories that is 10 deep and remove them one at a time just like I did.
- If you try to remove a directory with content you will get an error. I’ll show you how to remove these in later exercises.
Moving Around (pushd, popd)

In this exercise you learn how to save your current location and go to a new location with pushd. You then learn how to return to the saved location with popd.

Do This

Linux/OS X

```
$ cd temp
$ mkdir -p i/like/icecream
$ pushd i/like/icecream
~/temp/i/like/icecream
$ popd
~/temp
$ pwd
~/temp
$ pushd i/like
~/temp/i/like
$ pwd
~/temp/i/like
$ pushd icecream
~/temp/i/like/icecream
$ pwd
~/temp/i/like/icecream
$ popd
~/temp/i/like
$ pwd
~/temp
$ pushd i/like
~/temp
$ popd
~/temp
$ pushd
~/temp/i/like/icecream
$ pwd
~/temp/i/like/icecream
$ pushd
~/temp
$ pwd
~/temp
$ pushd
```

~/temp/i/like/icecream ~/temp
$ pwd
~/temp/i/like/icecream
$

Windows
Exercise 8 Windows Session

> cd temp
> mkdir -p i/like/icecream

Directory: C:\Users\zed\temp\i\like

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>LastWriteTime</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>d----</td>
<td>12/20/2011 11:05 AM</td>
<td></td>
<td>icecream</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

> pushd i/like/icecream
> popd
> pwd

Path
----
C:\Users\zed\temp

> pushd i/like
> pwd

Path
----
C:\Users\zed\temp\i\like

> pushd icecream
> pwd
Path
----
C:\Users\zed\temp\i\like\icecream

> popd
> pwd

Path
----
C:\Users\zed\temp\i\like

> popd
>

You Learned This

You’re getting into programmer territory with these commands, but they’re so handy I have to teach them to you. These commands let you temporarily go to a different directory and then come back, easily switching between the two.

The pushd command takes your current directory and "pushes" it into a list for later, then it changes to another directory. It’s like saying, “Save where I am, then go here.”

The popd command takes the last directory you pushed and “pops” it off, taking you back there.

Finally, on UNIX, the command pushd, if you run it by itself with no arguments, will switch between your current directory and the last one you pushed. It’s an easy way to switch between two directories. This does not work in PowerShell.

Do More

- Use these commands to move around directories all over your computer.
- Remove the i/like/icecream directories and make your own, then move around in them.
- Explain to yourself the output that pushd and popd will print out for you. Notice how it works like a stack?
• You already know this, but remember that `mkdir -p` will make an entire path even if all the directories don’t exist. That’s what I did very first for this exercise.

Making Empty Files (Touch, New-Item)

In this exercise you learn how to make an empty file using the `touch` (new-item on Windows) command.

Do This

Linux/OS X

```
$ cd temp
$ touch iamcool.txt
$ ls
iamcool.txt
$
```

Windows

```
> cd temp
> New-Item iamcool.txt -type file
> ls

Directory: C:\Users\zed\temp

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>LastWriteTime</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-a---</td>
<td>12/17/2011</td>
<td>9:03 AM</td>
<td>iamcool.txt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
```

>
You Learned This

You learned how to make an empty file. On UNIX touch does this, and it also changes the times on the file. I rarely use it for anything other than making empty files. On Windows, you don't have this command, so you learned how to use the New-Item command, which does the same thing but can also make new directories.

Do More

- UNIX: Make a directory, change to it, and then make a file in it. Then move up one level and run the rmdir command in this directory. You *should* get an error. Try to understand why you got this error.
- Windows: Do the same thing, but you won't get an error. You'll get a prompt asking if you really want to remove the directory.

Copy a File (cp)

In this exercise you learn how to copy a file from one location to another with the cp command.

Do This

**Linux/OS X**

```
    $ cd temp
    $ cp iamcool.txt neat.txt
    $ ls
    iamcool.txt neat.txt
    $ cp neat.txt awesome.txt
    $ ls
    awesome.txt iamcool.txt neat.txt
    $ cp awesome.txt thefourthfile.txt
    $ ls
    awesome.txt iamcool.txt neat.txt thefourthfile.txt
    $ mkdir something
    $ cp awesome.txt something/
    $ ls
    awesome.txt iamcool.txt neat.txt something thefourthfile.txt
```
$ ls something/
aweseomt.txt
$ cp -r something newplace
$ ls newplace/
aweseomt.txt
$

Windows

Exercise 10 Windows Session

> cd temp
> cp iamcool.txt neat.txt
> ls

Directory: C:\Users\zed\temp

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>LastWriteTime</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>----</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-a---</td>
<td>12/22/2011 4:49 PM</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>iamcool.txt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-a---</td>
<td>12/22/2011 4:49 PM</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>neat.txt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

> cp neat.txt awesome.txt
> ls

Directory: C:\Users\zed\temp

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>LastWriteTime</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>----</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-a---</td>
<td>12/22/2011 4:49 PM</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>awesome.txt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-a---</td>
<td>12/22/2011 4:49 PM</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>iamcool.txt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-a---</td>
<td>12/22/2011 4:49 PM</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>neat.txt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

> cp awesome.txt thefourthfile.txt
> ls
Directory: C:\Users\zed\temp

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>LastWriteTime</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-a---</td>
<td>12/22/2011</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>awesome.txt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-a---</td>
<td>12/22/2011</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>iamcool.txt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-a---</td>
<td>12/22/2011</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>neat.txt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-a---</td>
<td>12/22/2011</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>thefourthfile.txt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

> mkdir something

Directory: C:\Users\zed\temp

Mode | LastWriteTime | Length | Name     |
----  |--------------|--------|----------|
| d----| 12/22/2011   | 0      | something |

> cp awesome.txt something/
> ls

Directory: C:\Users\zed\temp

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>LastWriteTime</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>d----</td>
<td>12/22/2011</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>something</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-a---</td>
<td>12/22/2011</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>awesome.txt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-a---</td>
<td>12/22/2011</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>iamcool.txt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-a---</td>
<td>12/22/2011</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>neat.txt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-a---</td>
<td>12/22/2011</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>thefourthfile.txt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

> ls something
Directory: C:\Users\zed\temp\something

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>LastWriteTime</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-a---</td>
<td>12/22/2011</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>awesome.txt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

> cp -recurse something newplace
> ls newplace

Directory: C:\Users\zed\temp\newplace

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>LastWriteTime</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-a---</td>
<td>12/22/2011</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>awesome.txt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You Learned This

Now you can copy files. It's simple to just take a file and copy it to a new one. In this exercise I also make a new directory and copy a file into that directory.

I'm going to tell you a secret about programmers and system administrators now: they are lazy. I'm lazy. My friends are lazy. That's why we use computers. We like to make computers do boring things for us. In the exercises so far you have been typing repetitive boring commands so that you can learn them, but usually it's not like this. Usually if you find yourself doing something boring and repetitive, there's probably a programmer who has figured out how to make it easier. You just don't know about it.

The other thing about programmers is they aren't nearly as clever as you think. If you overthink what to type, then you'll probably get it wrong. Instead, try to imagine what the name of a command is and try it. Chances are that it's a name or some abbreviation similar to what you thought it was. If you still can't figure it out intuitively, then ask around and search online. Hopefully it's not something really stupid like ROBOCOPY.
Do More

- Use the `cp -r` command to copy more directories with files in them.
- Copy a file to your home directory or desktop.
- Find these files in your graphical user interface and open them in a text editor.
- Notice how sometimes I put a `/` (slash) at the end of a directory? That makes sure the file is really a directory, so if the directory doesn't exist I'll get an error.

Moving a File (mv)

In this exercise you learn how to move a file from one location to another using the `mv` command.

Do This

**Linux/OS X**

Exercise 11 Session

```
$ cd temp
$ mv awesome.txt uncool.txt
$ ls
newplace  uncool.txt
$ mv newplace oldplace
$ ls
oldplace  uncool.txt
$ mv oldplace newplace
$ ls
newplace  uncool.txt
$
```

**Windows**

Exercise 11 Windows Session

```
> cd temp
> mv awesome.txt uncool.txt
> ls
```
Directory: C:\Users\zed\temp

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>LastWriteTime</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>d----</td>
<td>12/22/2011 4:52 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td>newplace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d----</td>
<td>12/22/2011 4:52 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td>something</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-a---</td>
<td>12/22/2011 4:49 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td>0 iamcool.txt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-a---</td>
<td>12/22/2011 4:49 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td>0 neat.txt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-a---</td>
<td>12/22/2011 4:49 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td>0 thefourthfile.txt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-a---</td>
<td>12/22/2011 4:49 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td>0 uncool.txt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

> mv newplace oldplace
> ls

Directory: C:\Users\zed\temp

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>LastWriteTime</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>d----</td>
<td>12/22/2011 4:52 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td>oldplace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d----</td>
<td>12/22/2011 4:52 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td>something</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-a---</td>
<td>12/22/2011 4:49 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td>0 iamcool.txt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-a---</td>
<td>12/22/2011 4:49 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td>0 neat.txt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-a---</td>
<td>12/22/2011 4:49 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td>0 thefourthfile.txt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-a---</td>
<td>12/22/2011 4:49 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td>0 uncool.txt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

> mv oldplace newplace
> ls newplace
Directory: C:\Users\zed\temp\newplace

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>LastWriteTime</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-a---</td>
<td>12/22/2011 4:49 PM</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>awesome.txt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

> ls

Directory: C:\Users\zed\temp

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>LastWriteTime</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>d----</td>
<td>12/22/2011 4:52 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td>newplace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d----</td>
<td>12/22/2011 4:52 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td>something</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-a---</td>
<td>12/22/2011 4:49 PM</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>iamcool.txt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-a---</td>
<td>12/22/2011 4:49 PM</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>neat.txt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-a---</td>
<td>12/22/2011 4:49 PM</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>thefourthfile.txt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-a---</td>
<td>12/22/2011 4:49 PM</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>uncool.txt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

> 

You Learned This

Moving files or, rather, renaming them. It’s easy: give the old name and the new name.

Do More

- Move a file in the newplace directory to another directory, then move it back.

View a File (less, MORE)

To do this exercise you’re going to do some work using the commands you know so far. You’ll also need a text editor that can make plain text (.txt) files. Here’s what you do:

- Open your text editor and type some stuff into a new file. On OS X this could be TextWrangler. On Windows this might be Notepad++. On Linux this could be gedit. Any editor will work.
Save that file to your desktop and name it `test.txt`.

In your shell use the commands you know to `copy` this file to your `temp` directory that you’ve been working with.

Once you’ve done that, complete this exercise.

**Do This**

**Linux/OS X**

```
$ less test.txt
[displays file here]
$
```

That’s it. To get out of `less`, just type `q` (as in quit).

**Windows**

```
> more test.txt
[displays file here]
>
```

**WARNING!** In the output I’m showing `[displays file here]` to “abbreviate” what that program shows. I’ll do this when I mean to say, “Showing you the output of this program is too complex, so just insert what you see on your computer here and pretend I did show it to you.” Your screen will not actually show this.

**You Learned This**

This is one way to look at the contents of a file. It’s useful because, if the file has many lines, it will “page” so that only one screenful at a time is visible. In the *Do More* section, you’ll play with this some more.

**Do More**

- Open your text file again and repeatedly copy-paste the text so that it’s about 50–100 lines long.
- Copy it to your `temp` directory again so you can look at it.
• Now do the exercise again, but this time page through it. On UNIX you use the spacebar and w (the letter w) to go down and up. Arrow keys also work. On Windows, just hit the spacebar to page through.

• Look at some of the empty files you created.

• The cp command will overwrite files that already exist, so be careful when copying files around.

Stream a File (cat)

You’re going to do some more setup for this one so you get used to making files in one program and then accessing them from the command line. With the same text editor from the last exercise, create another file named test2.txt but this time save it directly to your temp directory.

Do This

Linux/OS X

```
Exercise 13 Session

$ less test2.txt
[displays file here]
$ cat test2.txt
I am a fun guy.
Don't you know why?
Because I make poems,
that make babies cry.
$ cat test2.txt
Hi there this is cool.
$
```

Windows

```
Exercise 13 Windows Session

> more test2.txt
[displays file here]
> cat test2.txt
I am a fun guy.
Don't you know why?
```
Because I make poems,
that make babies cry.
> cat test.txt
Hi there this is cool.
>
Remember that when I say [displays file here], I'm abbreviating the output of that command so I don't have to show you exactly everything.

You Learned This

Do you like my poem? Totally going to win a Nobel. Anyway, you already know the first command, and I'm just having you check that your file is there. Then you cat the file to the screen. This command spews the whole file to the screen with no paging or stopping. To demonstrate that, I have you do this to the test.txt, which should just spew a bunch of lines from that exercise.

Do More

- Make a few more text files and work with cat.
- UNIX: Try `cat test.txt test2.txt` and see what it does.
- Windows: Try `cat test.txt test2.txt` and see what it does.

Removing a File (rm)

In this exercise you learn how to remove (delete) a file using the rm command.

Do This

Linux/OS X

```bash
$ cd temp
$ ls
uncool.txt iamcool.txt neat.txt something thefourthfile.txt
$ rm uncool.txt
$ ls
```
```
iamcool.txt  neat.txt  something thefourthfile.txt
$ rm iamcool.txt neat.txt thefourthfile.txt
$ ls
something
$ cp -r something newplace
$
$ rm something/awesome.txt
$ rmdir something
$ rm -rf newplace
$ ls
$
```

Windows

Exercise 14 Windows Session

```bash
> cd temp
> ls

Directory: C:\Users\zed\temp

```

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Mode</th>
<th>LastWriteTime</th>
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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
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<td>12/22/2011 4:52 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td>something</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-a---</td>
<td>12/22/2011 4:49 PM</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>iamcool.txt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-a---</td>
<td>12/22/2011 4:49 PM</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>neat.txt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-a---</td>
<td>12/22/2011 4:49 PM</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>thefourthfile.txt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-a---</td>
<td>12/22/2011 4:49 PM</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>uncool.txt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

> rm uncool.txt
> ls
> rm iamcool.txt
> rm neat.txt
> rm thefourthfile.txt
> ls

You Learned This

Here we clean up the files from the last exercise. Remember when I had you try to rmdir on a directory with something in it? Well, that failed because you can't remove a directory with files in it. Instead you have to remove the file, or recursively delete all of its contents. That's what you did at the end of this example.
Do More

- Clean up everything in temp from all the exercises so far.
- Write in your notebook to be careful when running recursive remove commands on files.

Exiting Your Terminal (exit)

Do This

**Linux/OS X**

```
$ exit
```

**Windows**

```
> exit
```

You Learned This

Your final exercise is how to exit a Terminal. Again, this is very easy, but I'm going to have you do more.

Do More

For your last set of exercises, I want you to use the help system to look up a set of commands you should research and learn how to use on your own.

Here's the list for UNIX:

- `xargs`
- `sudo`
- `chmod`
- `chown`
For Windows, look up these things:

- forfiles
- runas
- attrib
- icacls

Find out what these are, play with them, and then add them to your index cards.

Command Line Next Steps

You have completed the crash course. At this point you should be a barely capable shell user. There's a huge list of tricks and key sequences you don’t know yet, and I’m going to give you a few final places to go research more.

UNIX Bash References

The shell you’ve been using is called bash. It's not the greatest shell but it’s everywhere and has a lot of features so it’s a good start. Here’s a short list of links about bash you should visit:


PowerShell References

On Windows, there’s really only PowerShell. Here’s a list of useful links related to PowerShell:

Index

Symbols
" (double quotes)
- escaping, 38
- strings and, 28, 33
- variables and, 30
' (single quotes)
- escaping, 38
- strings and, 33
- variables and, 30
" " " (triple quotes), 37–38
/ (forward-slash) characters, 38–40
\ (backslash) characters, 38–40
_ (underscore) characters, 24
| | (or) expressions, 91–96
+= (increment by) operators, 71–72, 99
== (equal) characters
- vs., 25
ARGV and, 46–51
in asking questions of users, 42
escaping quotes, 38
format strings and, 34–37
naming variables with, 24–26
printing variables with, 28–29
returning values from functions with, 74–76
setting variables to numbers, 44–45
setting variables to strings, 30–33
== (double equal) characters, 25, 92–96
! (not) expressions, 91–96
!= (not equal) characters, 91–96
# (pound) characters, 18–19
## ?? comments, 159–161
#{ (format activators), 28, 35
% (modulus) operators, 22, 35
{} (format activators), 35
&& (and) expressions, 91–96
*args (asterisk args), 63–65
@ (object scope), 125, 149–151

Numbers
[ (left bracket), opening arrays with, 106–108
] (right bracket), closing arrays with, 106–108
> (prompts), 50–51

A
Addresses, defined, 225
Advanced user input
- exceptions in, 206
- game lexicon and, 204–206
- introduction to, 204
- lexicon types in, 205
- numbers in, 206
- questions about, 210
- sentence breaks in, 204–205
- Study Drills on, 209
- testing first, 206–207
- testing procedures, 207–209
- writing scanners in, 205
Advice for programmers, 246–247
After inheritance, 180–182
Algorithms, 140
Analysis
- of game engines. See Game engine analysis
- of games, 188–189, 191
- object-oriented. See Object-oriented analysis
- top down versus bottom up, 170–176
And (&&) expressions, 91–96
Argument variable (ARGV). See ARGV (argument variable)
ArgumentError, 206
Arguments
- *args, 63–65
- ARGV. See ARGV (argument variable)
Arguments (Continued)
arrays and, 128
class style and, 189
in command line, 46–47
in functions, 62–68, 75
ARGV (argument variable)
introduction to, 46–48
opening files with, 52–54
prompting and passing with, 50–51
Arrays
2-dimensional, 108
accessing elements of, 114–115
bucket, 140–142
closing, 106–108
data structures and, 129–130
hashes vs., 132–133, 144
levels of, 142–144
loops and, 106–112
opening, 106–108
questions about, 108–109, 131
strings and, 128–129
Study Drills on, 108, 131
when to use, 130–131, 143
Asking questions of users
decision making and, 102–104
overview of, 42
questions about, 43
Study Drills on, 43
assert commands, 144, 217
Association, 133–136
Asterisk args (*args), 63–65
Automated testing
of forms, 229–230
guidelines for, 201
introduction to, 198
questions about, 202
results of, 201
Study Drills on, 202
writing, 198–201
B
Backslash (\) characters, 38–40
Before inheritance, 180–182
begin-rescue, 206, 210
bin/ folders, 192–196
Bitbucket.com, 80
Boolean logic
overview of, 94–96
questions about, 96
Study Drills on, 96
ture/false in, 92
Branches
overview of, 116–119
questions about, 119
Study Drills on, 118
Browsers
automated testing of forms and, 229–230
defined, 225
HTML forms and, 226–228
input from, generally, 224
layout templates and, 228–229
questions about, 231
Study Drills on, 230–231
web workings and, 224–226
websites and, 220
Bucket arrays, 140–142
C
cat (stream file) command, 285–286
cd (change directory), 260–264
Chef Solo, 242
Child classes, 179–186
chomp, 42–48
Classes
Child, 179–186
creating, 148–149
in game engine analysis, 167–169
hierarchies of, 167–168
introduction to, 146–148
modules and, 148–149
nil and, 160–162
in object-oriented programming, generally, 146–151
objects vs., 158
Parent, 179–186
in phrases, 152–153
style of, 189–190
testing, 168–169
close command, 56
Closing arrays with right bracket (]), 106–108
Command line tools
ARGV. See ARGV (argument variable)
cat (stream åle), 285–286
cd (change directory), 260–264
exit (exit terminal), 289–290
in Linux. See Linux
ls (list directory), 264–269
in Mac OS X. See Mac OS X
memorizing, 250
mkdir (make directory), 257–259
mv (move åle), 281
new–item (create empty åle), 276–277
popd (return to saved location),
273–276
pushd (save location, go to new location),
273–276
pwd command, 254–256
references on, 290
rm (remove åle), 286–289
rmdir (remove directory), 269–272
setup for, 251
shells, 249
touch (create empty åle), 276–277
viewing åles with, 283–285
for when lost, 256–257
in Windows. See Windows
Comments
## ?? 159–161
in English, 18, 24, 33
in game creation, 190–191
overview of, 18
questions about, 18–19
Study Drills on, 18–19
Connections, defined, 225
Copying åles
for, 277–281
overview of, 60–61
questions about, 61
Study Drills on, 61
Copy-pasting, 3
Correcting bad code, 88
cp (copy file) command, 277–281
D
Data structures, 129–130, 136
Data types, 124
Debugging games, 120–121
Decision making
exercises in, 102–103
questions about, 103–104
Study Drills on, 103
def (define function), 63, 152
delete, 141
Designing games, 120–121
Details, significance of, 2
Dictionaries, 132
Differences, significance of, 3
Directories. See Skeleton directories
Double equal (==) characters, 25,
92–96
Double quotes ("). See " (double quotes)
Drawing problems, 165–166
E
Ease of learning, 2–5
Elements of arrays, access to, 114–115
Eloquent Ruby, 242
else conditions
elsif as. See elsif
making decisions with, 102–104
overview of, 100–101
questions about, 101
Study Drills on, 101
elsif
branches and, 116–117
definition of, 123
introduction to, 101
making decisions with, 102–104
rules for, 120
English
comments in, 18, 24, 33
in object-oriented programming, 156
Equality operators
- != (not equal), 91–96
- = (single equal). See = (equal) characters
- == (double equal), 25, 92–96
  in Boolean logic, 95–96

Errors
- debugging games for, 120–121
  exceptions as. See Exceptions
- in if- statements, 100, 120
- load, 17
- name, 25
- ParserError, 213–216
- in prompt variables, 51
- rake test and, 201–202
- reading messages about, 16
- spelling, 37
- syntax. See Syntax errors
- tokens, 205
- in unpacking variables, 47
- in website creation, 221–222

Escape sequences
- introduction to, 38
- overview of, 38–39
- questions about, 40
- string, 124
  Study Drills on, 40

Evaluation
- of game engines. See Game engine analysis of games, 188–189, 191
  object-oriented. See Object-oriented analysis

Exceptions
- numbers and, 206
- in sentences, 213
- symbols for, 122–123
- exit commands, 116–119, 289–290

Explicitly overriding inheritance, 180

Extracting game concepts, 166. See also Game engine analysis

F
- f variable, 70–71
- False
  in Boolean logic, 95–96

format strings and, 34–35
math operators and, 20–21
overview of, 90–92

File.exist?(to_file), 60–61

Files
- copying, 60–61, 277–281
- creating empty, 276–277
- functions and, 70–72
- moving, 281
- opening, 52–58
- questions about, 71–72
- reading, 52–58
- reading backward, 24–26
- removing, 286–289
- running, 13, 15
- streaming, 285–286
  Study Drills on, 71
- viewing, 283–285
- writing, 56–58

First programs
- on Mac OS X, 12, 14
  overview of, 12
- questions about, 17
  Study Drills on, 16
- on Windows, 13, 15

Floating point numbers, 21

for-loop
- exercises in, 106–108
- questions about, 108–109
- rules for, 120
  Study Drills on, 108
- while-loop vs., 112

Format activators, 28, 35

Format strings
- = characters and, 34–37
- overview of, 34
- printing, 34
- questions about, 35
  Study Drills on, 35

Forms
- automated tests for, 229–230
- HTML, 227–231
INDEX

layout templates for, 228
overview of, 226–227
Forward-slash (/), 38–40
Frequently asked questions
on # (pound) characters, 18–19
on advanced user input, 210
on arrays, 108–109, 131
on asking questions of users, 43
on automated testing, 202
on Boolean logic, 96
on branches, 119
on browsers, 231
on comments, 18–19
on copying files, 61
on else conditions, 101
on escape sequences, 40
on first programs, 17
on format strings, 35
on functions, generally, 65
on functions, values from, 76
on functions and files, 71–72
on functions and variables, 67–68, 87
on has-a phrases, 161–162
on hashes, 144
on if-statement, 99
on inheritance, 186–187
on is-a phrases, 161–162
on for-loop, 108–109
on making decisions, 103–104
on math, 22
on memorizing logic, 92
on names, 25–26
on numbers, 22
on object-oriented analysis, 177
on object-oriented programming, 151, 156
on practicing code, 83, 87
on printing, 33, 37
on prompting and passing, 51
on reading and writing files, 54, 58
on sentences, 217
on skeleton directories, 195–196
on strings, 31
on symbols, 127
on text, 31
on variables, 25–26, 47–48
on website creation, 223
on while-loop, 112
Functions
branches and, 115–119
checklists for, 64, 70
code and, 62–65
def (define function) for, 152
files and, 70–72
in game creation, 189
importing and running, 84–86
names and, 62–65
overview of, 62–64
questions about, 65, 71–72, 76
Study Drills on, 64, 71, 75–76
style of, 189
values and, 74–76
variables and, 62–68, 84–87

G
Game engine analysis. See also Games
class hierarchies in, 167–168
coding classes in, 168
extracting/researching concepts in, 166
object maps in, 167–168
refining code in, 169–170
testing classes in, 168–169
top down versus bottom up approach to, 170–176
writing/drawing problems in, 165–166

Game engines
analysis of. See Game engine analysis
creation of, 238–240
refactoring of, 232–237
session-based, 238–241

Game lexicon
exceptions in, 206
introduction to, 204
lexicon types in, 205
numbers in, 206
sentence breaks in, 204–205
writing scanners and, 205
Games
   analysis of engines for. See Game engine analysis
      arrays in, 129–131
      branches in, 116–119
      class style in, 189–190
      code style in, 190
      comments in, 190–191
      debugging, 120–121
      designing, 120–121
      engines for. See Game engines evaluating, 188–189, 191
      function style in, 189
      functions in, generally, 116–119
      introduction to, 188
      lexicon in. See Game lexicon
      user input in. See Advanced user input on the web. See Web games
gedit text editor
   setup and, 8–9, 11
   viewing files in, 283
gem, 218–219
get commands, 141
gets.chomp
   asking questions of users with, 42–48
   opening files with, 52–54
   prompting and passing with, 50–51
Github.com, 80
Gitorious.org, 80
Global variables, 68
Google, 10
"Gothons from Planet Percal #25," 170–176
Grammar, 213

H
   Handlers, 222–223, 227
   Hard coding, 52
   Hard way overview
      copy-pasting vs., 3
      details, significance of, 2
      differences, significance of, 3
      ease of learning in, 2
      instructional videos, 3
persistence in, 3–4
   practice in, 3
   reading/writing Ruby in, 2
   warnings for programmers in, 4–5
has-a phrases
   introduction to, 158–159
   overview of, 159–161
   questions about, 161–162
   Study Drills on, 161
Hashes
   arrays and, 132–133, 142–144
   code description for, 140–142
   as data structures, 136
   exercises in, 133–136
   hash_key, 141
   introduction to, 132–133
   modules and, 136–139, 146–148
   questions about, 144
   Study Drills on, 143–144
   when to use, 143
"Hello World" project, 219–220. See also Websites
   HTML (HyperText Markup Language)
      forms in, 225–231
      session-based game engines in, 238–241
      websites created in, 222–223
I
   Idiomatic Ruby, 11
   if- statements
      arrays and, 106
      else conditions and, 100–101
      exercises in, 98–99
      making decisions with, 102–104
      questions about, 99
      rules for, 120
      Study Drills on, 99
   Implicit inheritance, 179
   Increment by (+=) operators, 71–72, 99
   Index.GET, 221–224
   Inheritance
      altering before/after, 180–182
      combining types of, 182–183
INDEX

composition vs., 183–186
definition of, 178–179
implicit, 179
introduction to, 178
overriding explicitly, 180
questions about, 186–187
Study Drills on, 186
super() with initialize, 183
when to use, 185–186
initialize, 183
Input methods, 42–47
Instantiating classes, 148–149
Instructional videos, 3
Integer() functions, 206
Intended readers, 4
International programming, 16
Internet
  browsers and. See Browsers
  games on. See Web games
  searching, 10
Irb interpreter, 53–54, 85–86
is-a phrases
  exercises in, 159–161
  introduction to, 158–159
  questions about, 161–162
  Study Drills on, 161
K
Keywords, 122–123
L
Launchpad.net, 80
Layout templates, 228–229
Learn C the Hard Way, 242
Learn Python the Hard Way, 4, 242
Learn Ruby the Hard Way, 3–4
Learning programming languages, 243–244
Learning Ruby, overview. See Hard way
  overview
Left bracket ([), opening arrays with, 106–108
Lexicon. See Game lexicon
Linux
  cat (stream file) in, 285
  cd (change directory) in, 260–261
  command line tools in, generally, 252–253
  cp (copy file) in, 277–278
  exit (exit terminal) in, 289
  less command in, 284
  ls (list directory) in, 265
  mv (move file) in, 281
  popd (return to saved location) in,
    273–274
  pushd (save location, go to new location)
    in, 273–274
  pwd command in, 255
  rm (remove file) in, 286–287
  rmdir (remove directory) in, 270
  setup on, 8–10
  Terminal setup in, 251
  touch (create empty file) in, 276–277
Lisp, 5
list, 141
List directory (ls), 264–269
Localhost, 220–225
Loops
  arrays and, 106–112
  for-loop, 106–108, 112, 120
  while-loop, 110–112, 120, 169
ls (list directory), 264–269
M
Mac OS X
  cat (stream file) in, 285
  cd (change directory) in, 260–261
  command line tools in, generally, 252–253
  cp (copy file) in, 277–278
  exit (exit terminal) in, 289
  first programs on, 12, 14
  less command in, 284
  ls (list directory) in, 265
  mv (move file) in, 281
  popd (return to saved location) in, 273–274
Mac OS X (Continued)
pushd (save location, go to new location)
in, 273–274
pwd command in, 255
rmdir (remove directory) in, 270
running files on, 14
setup on, 6–7
Terminal setup in, 251
touch (create empty file) in, 276–277

Make directory (mkdir), 257–259

Mapping
of hashes, 133–136
of objects, 167–168
in refactoring, 232–237

Match and peek, 212–213

Math. See also Numbers
algorithms for data structures, 140
overview of, 20–21
questions about, 22
Study Drills on, 21

Mechanize, 242

Memorization
of characters, 78
of command line tools, 250
of logic, 90–92
of truth tables, 91–92
of truth terms, 90–91

mkdir (make directory), 257–259

Modules
classes and, 148
hashes and, 136–139, 146–148
in object-oriented programming, generally, 146–151

Modulus (%) operators, 22, 35

mv (move file) command, 281

new (create initializer) command, 140

new-item (create empty file) command, 276–277

nil
classes and, 160–162
as data type, 124
hashes and, 132–139
Not (!) expressions, 91–96
Not equal (!=) characters, 91–96

Notepad++
first programs in, 13
setup and, 7
viewing files in, 283

Numbers. See also Math
in game lexicon, 206
overview of, 20–21
questions about, 22
Study Drills on, 21

O
Object maps, 167–168
Object scope (@), 125

Object-oriented analysis
introduction to, 164–165
questions about, 177
of simple game engines. See Game engine analysis
Study Drills on, 176–177
top down versus bottom up approach in, 170–176

Object-oriented programming (OOP)
analysis in. See Object-oriented analysis
classes in, 148–149
english option in, 156
examples of, 150–151
exercises in, 152
getting things from things in, 150
hashes in, 146–148
introduction to, 148–149
modules in, 146–149
objects in, 148–149
phrase drills for, 152–153
questions about, 151, 156
reading code in, 153–156

N
Names
functions and, 62–65
overview of, 24–25
questions about, 25–26
Study Drills on, 25
Objects
  @ for, 125
  classes vs., 158–161
  instantiating, 148–149
  maps of, 167–168
  in object-oriented programming, generally, 146–151
  require and, 148–149

Octothorpe, 18–19

OED (Oxford English Dictionary), 136

OOP (object-oriented programming). See Object-oriented programming (OOP)

open (filename), 52–58

Opening arrays with left bracket ([), 106–108

Operators, defined, 125. See also specific operators

Or (|) expressions, 91–96

Overriding inheritance, 180

Oxford English Dictionary (OED), 136

P

Padrino, 242

Parameters, 46–47

Parent classes, 179–186

Parentheses Exponents Multiplication Division Addition Subtraction (PEMDAS), 22

Parsers, 213–216

PEMDAS (Parentheses Exponents Multiplication Division Addition Subtraction), 22

Persistence, 3–4

Phrase drills, 152–153

popd (return to saved location), 273–276

Port 8080, 219–223

Pound (#) characters, See # (pound) characters

PowerShell
  first programs in, 15–16
  references on, 290
  running files in, 15
  setup and, 6–8

Practicing code
  exercises in, 82–86
  importance of, 3
  questions about, 83, 87
  Study Drills on, 83, 87

Printing
  format strings, 34–35
  practice exercises in, 32–33, 36–37
  print for, 42
  print two for, 62
  pwd (print working directory) for, 254–256
  questions about, 33, 37
  Study Drills on, 33, 37
  variables, 28–29

Programmers
  advice for, 246–247
  bad versus good, 86
  details, significance of, 2
  differences, significance of, 3
  warnings for, 4–5

Programming languages, 243–244

Project skeleton directories. See Skeleton directories

Prompting
  > for, 50–51
  for numbers, 44
  passing and, 50–51
  questions about, 51
  Study Drills on, 44, 51

pushd (save location, go to new location), 273–276

puts command
  comments and, 18–19
  format strings and, 34–36
  introduction to, 12–13
  math symbols and, 20–21
  strings and, 30–32

pwd (print working directory), 254–256

Q

Questions asked by students. See Frequently asked questions
Questions asked of users. See Asking questions of users

R

rake test
  automated testing with, 199–202
  setting up, 194
  syntax errors in, 202
  websites and, 230, 232
Rakefile, 193–194, 199–202
  .rb suffix, 12

Reading code
  for files. See Reading files
  in object-oriented programming, 153–156
    resources for, 80–81
  in Ruby, generally, 2
    symbols in, 126

Reading files
  backward, 24–26
  exercises in, 52–53, 56–57
  questions about, 54, 58
  read command for, 56
  readline command for, 56
  Study Drills on, 53, 57–58

Refactoring game engines, 232–237

References, 242, 290

Refining code, 169–170

Remove directory (rmdir), 269–272
Remove file (rm), 286–289

Requests, defined, 225–226
require, 148–149

Refactoring game engines, 232–237

Resources, 80–81

Set

Setup
  for command line tools, 251
  generally, 6
  Internet searches for, 10
  on Linux, 8–10
  on Mac OS X, 6–7
  warnings about, 10–11
  on Windows, 7–8

Shells, 249

Sinatra
  browser interactions with, 220
  errors in, 221–222
  “Hello World” project in, 219–220
installing, 218–219
stopping/reloading, 221
templates in, 222–223
Single equal (=) characters. See = (equal) characters
Skeleton directories
creating, 192–193
final structure of, 193–194
introduction to, 192
questions about, 195–196
quiz on, 195
testing setup of, 194
using, 195
Sourceforge.net, 80
Stateless sessions, 237
Stream file (cat) command, 285–286
String escape sequences, 124. See also Escape sequences
Strings
arrays and, 128–129
escape sequences and, 38
format, 34–35
questions about, 31
Study Drills on, 31
text and, 30–31
variables and, 28–29
Student questions. See Frequently asked questions
Study Drills
on # characters, 18–19
on accessing elements of arrays, 115
on advanced user input, 209
on arrays, 108, 131
on asking questions of users, 43
on automated testing, 202
on Boolean logic, 96
on branches, 118
on browsers, 230–231
on comments, 18–19
on copying files, 61
on else conditions, 101
on escape sequences, 40
on first programs, 16
on functions, generally, 64
on functions and files, 71
on functions and values, 75–76
on functions and variables, 67, 87
on has–a phrases, 161
on hashes, 143–144
on if– statements, 99
on inheritance, 186
on is–a phrases, 161
on for–loop, 108
on making decisions, 103
on math, 21
on names, 25
on numbers, 21
on object-oriented analysis, 176–177
on object-oriented programming, 151
on practicing code, 83, 87
on printing, 29, 33, 37
on prompting and passing, 51
on prompting for numbers, 44
on reading files, 53, 57–58
on sentences, 217
on strings, 31
on symbols, 126–127
on text, 31
on variables, 25, 29, 47
on website creation, 223
on while–loop, 112
on writing files, 57–58
Style, 189–190
sudo gem install, 218–221, 229
super() with initialize, 183
super(name), 160–162
Symbols. See also specific symbols
data types, 124
introduction to, 122
keywords, 122–123
operators, 125
questions about, 127
reading code and, 126
string escape sequences, 124
Study Drills on, 126–127
Syntax errors
branches and, 118
defined, 16
in if- statements, 100
rake test and, 202

T
Templates, 222–223, 228–229
Terminal
Boolean logic in, 94
first programs in, 13–16
running files in, 14
setup and, 6–11
Testing
automated. See Automated testing
classes, in game engine analysis, 168–169
correcting bad code and, 88
procedures for, 207–209
rake for. See rake test
in sentence creation, 217
of skeleton directory setup, 194
user input and, 206–209
Text
questions about, 31
strings and, 30–31
Study Drills on, 31
Text editors
creating, 56–58
gedit, 8–11, 283
Notepad++ as. See Notepad++
running files on, 12–17
setting up, 6–11
Terminal as. See Terminal
TextWrangler as. See TextWrangler
TextWrangler
first programs in, 12
setup and, 6, 11
viewing files in, 283
Thor, 242
Top down versus bottom up analysis, 170–176.
See also Object-oriented analysis
touch (create empty file) command, 276–277

Tracking sessions/users, 237–238
Triple quotes (" " "), 37–38
True
format strings and, 34–35
math operators and, 20–21
strings and, 31
 truncate command, 56–58
Truth tables, 91–92
Truth terms, 90–91
txt = open(filename), 52–54
Typing, importance of, 2

U
Underscore (_) characters, 24
UNIX Bash, 290
Unpacking arguments/variables, 44, 46–48
Upgrades, 240–241
URLs, 220–225
Users
asking questions of, 42–43, 102–104
input of. See Advanced user input
tracking, 237–238

V
Values, 74–76, 121
Variables
ARGV. See ARGV (argument variable)
f, 70–71
functions and, 62–68, 84–87
global, 68
naming, 24–26
overview of, 24–25
passing to scripts, 46–47
printing, 28–29
questions about, 25–26, 47–48, 67–68
setting to numbers, 44–45
setting to strings, 30–33
strings and, 28–33

Study Drills on, 25, 47, 67
Videos, 3
Viewing files, 283–285
INDEX

W
'w,' 56–61
Warnings, 4–5, 10–11
Web games
  engine creation for, 238–240
  introduction to, 232
  refactoring engines for, 232–237
  sessions in, 237–238
  tracking users in, 237–238
  upgrades to, 240–241
Websites
  browsers and. See Browsers
  creating, generally, 218
  error repair in, 221–222
  “Hello World” project, 219–220
  questions about, 223
  Sinatra for, installing, 218–219
  Sinatra for, stopping/reloading, 221
  Study Drills on, 223
  template creation in, 222–223
The Well-Grounded Rubyist, 242
while true, 116–119
while-loop
  exercises in, 110–112
  in game creation, 169
  for-loop vs., 112
  questions about, 112
  rules for, 120
  Study Drills on, 112
Windows
  cat (stream file) in, 285–286
  cd (change directory) in, 261–263
  command line tools in, 253–254
  cp (copy file) in, 278–280
  exit (exit terminal) in, 285–286
  first programs on, 13, 15
  ls (list directory) in, 265–269
  mkdir (make directory) in, 258–259
  more command in, 284
  mv (move file) in, 281–283
  new-item (create empty file) in, 276–277
  popd (return to saved location), 274–275
  PowerShell setup in, 252
  pushd (save location, go to new location), 274–275
  pwd command in, 255
  rm (remove file) in, 287–288
  rmdir (remove directory) in, 271–272
  running files on, 15
  setup on, 7–8
Word drills, 152
Writing files
  exercises in, 56–57
  questions about, 58
  Study Drills on, 57–58
  write('stuff') command for, 56
Writing problems, 165–166
Writing scanners, 205
Writing skills, importance of, 2

Z
Zen koans, 158
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