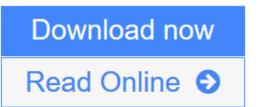# Learn Python The Hard Way

Zed Shaw , Greg Newman (Illustrator)

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Learn Python The Hard Way Zed Shaw , Greg Newman (Illustrator)
This simple book is meant to give you a first start in programming.

The title says it is the hard way to learn to write
code but it's actually not. It's the "hard" way only in that it's the way people used to teach things. In this book you
will do something incredibly simple that all programmers actually do to learn a 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
1-2 hours a night, then you'll have a good foundation for moving on to another book. You might not really learn
"programming" from this book, but you will learn the foundation skills you need to start learning the language.
This book's job is to teach you the three most basic essential skills that a beginning programmer needs to know:
Reading And Writing, Attention To Detail, Spotting Differences.

Learn Python The Hard Way Details

Date   : Published (first published 2010)
ISBN   :
Author : Zed Shaw , Greg Newman (Illustrator)
Format : 210 pages
Genre   : Computer Science, Programming, Science, Nonfiction, Technology, Computers

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From Reader Review Learn Python The Hard Way for online ebook

Simon Cowan says

Finished is a bit inaccurate here as I'll be returning to this book again and again. Not only is it a great learning tool it's also an excellent reference when I get stuck. Yes when, not if. Also, I didn't manage to get further than the beginning of classes and such but that has more to do with my ability with Python than the book so doesn't impact my rating. I have, though, got a lot further with this than any other resource I've tried so hats off to the author. A definite add to favourites.

Allyn says

Not so much a book about Python as it is a book about learning to program. I often point new programmers to this book. It's not complete, but Zed wrote this knowing that the Internet is a thing and people that want to be programmers should utilize it (because StackOverflow will be your friend forever). This book gives you homework.

P says

Four stars because it's damn good instruction manual, but it's not like it's All the Kings Men or anything.

Martin says

Kniha je v online verzi k dispozici zdarma zde: learnpythonthehardway.org

Bohužel, LPTHW bych rozhodn? nedoporu?il nikomu, kdo chce proniknout do taj? programování v Pythonu. Jediná kapitola, která je užite?ná, je Appendix A, jenž nau?í základy práce v PowerShellu.

P?ibližn? od poslední p?tiny knihy se praktická cvi?ení stávají absurdn? náro?nými, nové koncepty se ukazují na t?ch dosud nevysv?tlených. P?íklad 39, kdy se slovníky vysv?tlují vytvo?ením hashmapy, je už opravdu úlet.

Více o kritice na knihu zde: sopython.com/wiki/LPTHW_Complaints.

Opensource.com says

Python is a great language choice for someone beginning to learn computer programming. Learning Python means you can hack on your Raspberry Pi, contribute to OpenStack, or do just about anything else in between. Learn Python the Hard Way by Zed A. Shaw is an excellent learning resource for the beginning Python programmer. Don't be turned off by the "hard way" bit; the book's exercises are well thought out and

pedagogically sound. In fact, doing things the "hard way" will actually make you a better programmer in the end.

Read the full review at Opensource.com

Learn Python The Hard Way by Zed Shaw is one of the books on the Opensource.com 2014 Annual Reading List. Visit our site for details on how you can win a free copy of the book.

Chenglu Jin says

Yes, it is a good book for a program beginner. And the author is quite humors. But sometimes, he will leave you some questions without answers. You need to search it online. Although we can learn more from online materials, I still think it is waste of time sometimes. Maybe I just dislike this teaching style.

Se Jin says

When first picking up this book, I was expecting to see an anatomy of the Python on the first few pages of the book. However, I ended up finding the ABCs of the programming language named "Python." ??I am currently in High School level, who never had any prior education on coding or computer science. I was looking through the piles of books trying to find the easiest book I could start with because I was about to start a little programming organization named the Online Student Programmers' Organization.

This book simply instructs the readers to follow through the exercises first, and then teaches you the concepts of the code. Thus, this book is centred towards "hands-on" exercises rather than plain old "read and consume info." Zed A. Shaw has incorporated numerous graphic images to allow the readers to comprehend the steps listed within each exercises. Finally, this book provides a little "appendix" section for all the sudo codes you can perform on consoles for the Windows, Mac, and Linux.

Overall, this book is great because it starts with the basics of Python; I would highly recommend this book to new coders as this book is easy to comprehend and follow through.

Michael says

Considering I'm a software developer by profession and already know enough Python to be dangerous, I'm definitely not the target audience for this book. I still bought it for 2 reasons: (1) I like Zed's writing and also read his blog. (2) I also teach programming courses and thought this book might give me some good ideas on how to teach certain concepts to our students. I wasn't disappointed, this book is an excellent introduction to programming, the methodology is refreshingly different from all the dreadful "Learn X in 21 days" books in that it actually stresses how tedious and annoying writing code can be and if you are a new software developer and use it like it's intended, you'll definitely learn a lot. I for one will recommend this in the future!

Manuel Pages says

Read the whole book overnight.
Was hoping for some really hardcore chapters, but went through it like a knife through the butter.
On the other hand — I'm a professional programmer.

Nonetheless, I learned how to
>>> read and write python source code
>>> do simple test driven programming (though I seek for more details in «Test-Driven Development in Python by Jason Diamond»)

The downside of it was really misleading title. That was not the hard way, there were some extremely important details missing, but all in all it was OK, so two stars.

Jvaughn Duggan says

This book won't teach you Python 3. The authors opted not to teach the latest version, claiming that the Python programming community won't be using this for another 10 years.

Well, it's 2014, 95% of the PyPl packages support Python3, and most developers recommend newcomers to go straight to 3. The Python community seems to have embraced it.

It's a shame too, because the txtbook is really well written and provides heaps of good exercises. I guess if you wanna stick to Python 2, this book is like a 5/5

Tomas says

I find text based games really boring and I didn't like the style the book is written in, nor the whole idea of typing all the code first and then getting an explanation after that.

I'd suggest to take a free Coursera course "An Introduction to Interactive Programming in Python" instead. No need to install anything (everything runs in a browser), much better explanations of things, clear, fun and doable mini projects (a few card games, pong, asteroids with graphics and sounds!), community, etc.

Neal Aggarwal says

An excellent intro to Python programming. I use this to teach my students intro programming to lead onto my other courses in hardware design. Those courses are built on top of Nisan and Shocken's program that requires minimal programming skills in order to make the leap into building a computer from scratch. One of the most important things LPTHW teaches is that just as you cannot learn to ride a bike by reading about it, you cannot learn to program without actually keying in the programs and seeing them work.

Kory says

It's a decent book to learn Python, but it's really lacking. It starts off strong learning the simple concepts, but when he gets to classes, everything falls apart and he really slacks off in explaining certain details. Plus he throws you off the deep end before giving any actual exercise using tuples, saying here's the test code go write the program that works with it. I would make sense if he actually had explained things and given examples.

Soham Chakraborty says

I am surprised this has such a low rating. I mean, yes, when I went to #python on irc.freenode.net and asked guys, I need a basic beginners python book, the immediate response was haven't you seen LPTHW.

Zed, you sir, are an awesome teacher. I mean, yes, awesome teacher. I love the line, "Remember, paying attention to details is necessary. make the code exactly as mine and run". Well, I did run it, sir.

One guy in my office, who is also in python-devel list and a seriously good python guy, also recommended this book first in his lecture when he gave a brief introduction of the language. Yeah, I have this book open in my tab most of the time. BTW, this is not for professional python guys who are executing .py all the time, this is meant to get a grip on the language and then further explore it. Even, Zed told that a number of times.

If you are interested in learning python, give this a try.

Mission Blue says

I used this book to remember some of the basic things I had studied before. It was kinda okay up until the object oriented programming concept. the author basically throws in some code and expects you to understand it! if you can't, then it's your own problem. google it, freak!
The book should have been called "Learn to google the hard way with a twist"!