Learn Python 3 the Hard Way: A Very Simple Introduction to the Terrifyingly Beautiful World of Computers and Code (Zed Shaw's Hard Way Series)

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Cyril says

It's an interesting read, definitely an interesting method but it's directed to complete beginners to programming.

The idea here is that things are addressed in a practical way, not theoretical. You'll learn things by trials and errors, repeating code so that the "how to do" gets imprinted in your memory However you won't necessarily understand the "why". Also the author doesn't explain much but asks you to look for answers by yourself. It's obviously the best way to learn. I mean we human learn from our mistakes and we memorize better what doesn't work especially if we've struggled to find what works. Still it can be quite a steep learning curve for total beginners and I wonder if it can even be frustrating for them in the end (also considering you don't get responses from the book you're never sure you get the right or best answer searching the web).

As an experienced programmer who just want to learn python, the book isn't what I was looking for. Still it's possible to just read through the book to get a general oversight of Python without actually practicing. The practice part is what makes this book a good one but an experience programmer would find this approach too cumbersome. Then if you're experienced you'll miss the theory and concepts you're used to learn in a standard programming language book.

Overall I don't know how to rate this book. I like the concept which is new to me, but it wasn't what I actually was looking for to get a first look at python. I guess I expected something a bit more advanced.

Chrisee says

Well-organized and engaging, *Learn Python 3 the Hard Way* is perhaps the clearest guide for beginners. It's been a long while since I've needed it and it only left good impressions.