

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [Learning to program with a learning disorder?](#)

Django - August 1, 2014, 10:59 am

Hey guys,

As some of you may know, I have got autism (PDD-NOS, not Asperger's) and a learning disorder called NLD. I've been trying to get into programming for about 4 years and I still have not gotten any further than learning to declare variables in VB/Python. I'm really dedicated to learning to program but I just literally never get any further. I have read COUNTLESS books and I have done all instructions at least 4 times.

I have asked many forums and even my teachers at school but they all just give me books which I don't understand a word of. I did a course in Visual Basic and basically got 0/100 on each test. It's really demotivating since I've been trying to learn for 4(!) years now. I'm hoping to become an ethical hacker or a computer security specialist but you need some basic programming for both.

I have also tried pretty much every possible language so far and still didn't get very far. I have tried, in order: Visual Basic, Python, PHP, Ruby, LUA, C#, C++, C, JAVA. I think C++/C/C# would be the best languages for me and I do like Python.

Could anybody give me any help at all? I have tried 50-60 different books in different languages, I have tried CodeCademy, etc.

Thanks a lot guys!

Dispersia - August 1, 2014, 4:36 pm

This may not be what you want to hear, I'm sorry, but this may not be the field for you. Especially not computer security, that is literally just reading. But anyway, if you are really dedicated, and since I don't know exactly what autism does (I believe it's just a reading disability, yes?), get an ebook version of whatever book you want to read, and just have a text to speech read it to you. You would listen and be able to write without looking, just listening and hearing. Things such as debugging are going to be hell for you, but those are some things you can just work around. I'm sorry to hear you have that though, sucks out of everyone that could have it, it just happened to be you. Feel for you.

+Haze - August 1, 2014, 6:49 pm

Sorry to hear that, must be painful. Since you have a problem like that, I suggest you stop trying so many languages, stick with ONE. Pick one and stick with that and try to learn it. It all depends on what type of programming you want to go into really. I would say try C# as the syntax is pretty universal.

MrPip - August 1, 2014, 6:53 pm

You could be brain damaged, it doesn't matter. If coding is your goal you will achieve it. Anything is possible once you put your mind to it. It seems like you're dedicated to coding, continue learning and exploring. Also think deeper about a word. For example when it says something along the lines of "constant". Google "constant", how is it used, and why is it used. Success is failure man, keep going, and NEVER give up !

Crake - August 1, 2014, 11:57 pm

Well, try Head First's books... They're very unique. However, I don't know if you'll manage at this point. If you do though, I'll be happy to support you however possible.

Django - August 2, 2014, 4:28 am

(Aug 1, 2014 04:36 PM)Dispersia Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) This may not be what you want to hear, I'm sorry, but this may not be the field for you. Especially not computer security, that is literally just reading. But anyway, if you are really dedicated, and since I don't know exactly what autism does (I believe it's just a reading disability, yes?), get an ebook version of whatever book you want to read, and just have a text to speech read it to you. You would listen and be able to write without looking, just listening and hearing. Things such as debugging are going to be hell for you, but those are some things you can just work around. I'm sorry to hear you have that though, sucks out of everyone that could have it, it just happened to be you. Feel for you.

Autism isn't a reading disorder at all. I, personally, struggle with things such as social contact, making eye contact, anxiety, making/keeping friends, weird obsessions etc. It's not like I'm the only person on the planet to have autism either, my gf has it too.

The thing is, I do know a lot about security but I just don't know anything about programming. The text to speech seems like a good idea but I just struggle with the contents of a book. I don't know what some of it means.

Thanks for the post though!

Dispersia - August 2, 2014, 9:24 am

(Aug 2, 2014 04:28 AM)Shadow Fiend Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Autism isn't a reading disorder at all. I, personally, struggle with things such as social contact, making eye contact, anxiety, making/keeping friends, weird obsessions etc. It's not like I'm the only person on the planet to have autism either, my gf has it too.

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Thanks for the post though!

Oh my apologies, I was misinformed what I thought it was. I have not known anyone with it, only heard of it, and as I've been moving from airport to airport the past few weeks couldn't really look it up to well lol. If that's the case then I guess I need to ask, where is the real problem then? Do you not understand the concepts? Can you just not grasp them? Do you have a hard time paying attention to the text? (a lot of times in books, I read the same line over and over without even noticing it, reason I read much less now than I used to). But ya, I love just going for a jog or something with an ebook playing, that is probably how I learn best, just have to find something that fits you, that's just what works really well for me

Django - August 2, 2014, 10:26 am

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I find it hard to extract the information I need out of the book and when people start throwing terms at me or the book does then I get confused and don't understand a word of it.

Dispersia - August 2, 2014, 10:30 am

(Aug 2, 2014 10:26 AM)Shadow Fiend Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I find it hard to extract the information I need out of the book and when people start throwing terms at me or the book does then I get confused and don't understand a word of it.

A lot of authors throw over complicated words for no reason to seem more intelligent. I have never known why they do that, but I agree the wording is very... wordy at times. If you can, try to ignore the words that you just get confused on, they usually have little to do with the concept. As long as you can get the entire concept and not every part of it, you should be good.

kindoskinporche - August 2, 2014, 9:27 pm

Dude keep your self to be sporty,because this can help to make your body and also your brain more fresh and active.

If you don't keep moving your blood get intoxications and it isn't good for your entire organism.

At least after sport time at morning keep a light food,relax for some 25-35minutes and try to study.

Sorry for my bad english,but it isn't my primary language.

However if not my low quality english skills i will be hep you more ;(

Junkie™ - August 3, 2014, 12:36 am

I have Asperger's so I know a little bit about what you are struggling with. Do you have a hard time focusing on what you are reading? Remember that reading is not always enough to actually learn something. You need to be an active reader to take in the information that you need. I suggest buying a hard copy book and highlighting terms and things of interest. Take notes as if you were in school. After you're done reading try to talk to someone about what you have learned.

I know that people with PDD's have a hard time focusing on things that are not part of their special interests. What are you most interested in? Try to understand programming in terms of whatever it is you are interested in. I don't know if that makes sense but you probably know what I am saying. I don't think that reading is your problem. I think it's more that you are not able to focus on what you are reading.

I am by no means an experienced programmer but if you ever need ideas on how to get started just send me a PM or you can IM me on Skype. Just PM me if you want my Skype.

PS. The best way to learn coding is by doing. Have you been working out the problems that the books give you? You really need to follow along with the book. Try to use the techniques that the books give you and use it to create your own programs. Don't just read and expect to understand everything. You may learn best by trial and error. You are going to run into problems when you are coding. The best way to learn from a mistake is to find out how to fix it.

MeatBalls - August 3, 2014, 8:55 am

Have you tried watching some tutorial videos instead ?

I also had problems understanding everything else than declaring variables at first through reading ebooks. I mean they implement the whole thing for you and tend to keep their english simple in tutorial videos, so yeah, it was much easier for me (at least for me).

Django - August 3, 2014, 10:45 am

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Not really, I don't really know who explains things in English and not in terms. It's easier for me to understand a concept when it's explained. For example: Instead of saying to me declaring a variable is blablabla, saying that a doctor needs his tools first to operate. It helps me grasp the concept and understand the logic behind it if that makes sense.

Solister - August 4, 2014, 1:50 am

just learn python and then when u go to learn other langurs it will be a piece of cake

Django - August 4, 2014, 5:01 am

(Aug 4, 2014 01:50 AM)Solister Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) just learn python and then when u go to learn other langurs it will be a piece of cake

Ahh yes, because that is not what I've been trying to do for the past 4 years. Read the OP thoroughly before you post.

Han. - August 6, 2014, 4:25 pm

(Aug 1, 2014 06:53 PM)Gibsons Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) You could be brain damaged, it doesn't matter. If coding is your goal you will achieve it. Anything is possible once you put your mind to it. It seems like you're dedicated to coding, continue learning and exploring. Also think deeper about a word. For example when it says something along the lines of "constant". Google "constant", how is it used, and why is it used. Success is failure man, keep going, and NEVER give up !

I wish people would stop spreading this whole "anyone can program" thing. Certain people have more logical minds than others. Certain people are naturally good at music, some are naturally good at sports.

Would you tell a 500-pound, arthritic, unsociable kid to go and join his local sports team? No! Some people's brains just aren't wired for programming. They could learn sure, but is it really worth the many years of struggling when in all reality, they aren't going to get a job out of it or have a lot of fun, because there's tens of thousands of people who do it better than them, and they're going to be stressed the entire time?

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I know exactly what you mean. Certain people have ways of learning that suit them better.

However, if you don't like, or can't, process technical information, programming isn't for you. You ARE going to encounter very technical information at some point, so my advice to you is, either learn how to read and process technical information, or try another hobby. Covering up concepts with simple analogies may work for the basics of a language, but once you get to the meat of it, you have to explain things in certain ways, and can't dress it up, meaning you'll get stuck at some point or another.

(Aug 2, 2014 10:30 AM)Dispersia Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) A lot of authors throw over complicated words for no reason to seem more intelligent.

Wow, really?

They put those words in there, because not everything can be explained simply. Would you read a book about brain surgery and complain that it's too complicated because they used words you didn't understand? It seems so, because you don't seem to grasp the concept that not everything is easy. Seems like you're immature and not willing to work at anything.

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the above stands true here as well. Please leave the coding sections, you're not a coder, you've been laughed at a hundred times here, leave like you did before but please, do not come back. Ever. You are useless in this section.

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And you would know, because you've been here so long. Oh wait.

I used to help out here a lot before the section became:

"What language should I learn"

Emily Brontë - August 6, 2014, 5:01 pm

I hate to be the bearer of bad news but find another profession. That may sound dickish but its true. Or try and learn one good language and stick with that, maybe do C# and be a game developer?

Han. - August 6, 2014, 5:22 pm

Sometimes the best questions are the most simple, weeds out the morons, which has you covered:

<http://programmers.stackexchange.com/questions/14645/what-are-effective-interview-questions>

<http://java67.blogspot.co.uk/2012/08/10-java-coding-interview-questions-and.html> (Fibonacci, basic string manipulation)

etc.

thegentlad22 - August 6, 2014, 7:47 pm

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Thanks a lot guys!

Just go on youtube and watch some videos. Programming topics are too long to put into a single video or a single book. That is why depending on what you want to do there's at least 20 so books about that topic by itself.

Game Developement, Drivers, anti-virus programs, crypto, etc... have 20 odd so books which would just cover those single topics.

My suggestion is to first set a goal. What do you want to be able to do at the end? be able to write a commercial game? Write a driver?

Then from there you can start learning... you would then have to select a programming language. C++ is very common to learn when making video games and other things.

Yet, for video games you need to know how to program, you need artistic skills and animation skills and sound engineering skills.

Orianthi - August 6, 2014, 11:44 pm

OP the nicest words I could say is maybe the field is not right for you. I have been jumping language to language since I get bored of it pretty fast. (Thanks Adhd) The best advice I can give you is try your hardest. Maybe try Psudeo code then a language like python.

I find it a little easier if I do something pre ready to get my thoughts on paper. THEN transcribe it.

Django - August 7, 2014, 3:40 am

Guys, there's no need to argue about who's the better programmer. I'll try all advice that is given here and start with an easier language. I'm glad everyone's so willing to help but everyone keeps fighting at the same time.

vagabund132 - August 7, 2014, 2:55 pm

Well, if you can't learn a thing then this type of things is not just for you, but you know, never give up! To motivate you a bit, I am fine healthy person without any dissorders (known) and I am struggling even more with learning that :)

kindoskinporche - August 7, 2014, 9:38 pm

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dude why you dont try pure basic????
its awesome

MsToxic - August 24, 2014, 11:18 am

how abt rebol? its simple and gives u a lot of examples like this <http://www.rebol.com/pre-view.html>

Sajuuk - August 24, 2014, 11:39 am

You're going to have a rough coding life if this isn't a horrible troll.