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Thread: [What's a Lesson You Had to Learn the Hard Way?](#)

jcole - October 5, 2025, 2:45 pm

We all get advice, but sometimes the most important lessons are the ones we have to learn for ourselves. Often through failure or difficulty. This is a thread to share some of that hard earned wisdom.

For me... The lesson was learning the difference between being "nice" and being "kind". For years I was a people pleaser, saying yes to everything to avoid conflict and it led to burnout and resentment. I had to learn the hard way that sometimes the kindest thing you can do for yourself and others is to set clear boundaries, even if it disappoints someone in the short term. It was a tough lesson that took years to sink in.

What's a valuable lesson that you had to learn the hard way?

Mech - October 5, 2025, 6:48 pm

I have always been a "hard way" kind of learner.

Specifically with money. For a really long time was spending every bit of every penny I earned up until about 7 years ago.

Everyone around me told me not to blow what I had but I didn't listen. Then I lost the contract that was making me so much money and was only left with a pile of debt. Took me a long time to dig myself out of that hole.

trade m3 - October 5, 2025, 7:49 pm

Don't take a parent for granted.

Digitly - October 5, 2025, 9:28 pm

In 2020, I had my used car stolen in broad daylight which was never recovered.

I learnt the hard way the importance of protecting your assets(I should have theft alarm installed in it)

DAL-SHA - October 6, 2025, 9:08 am

i learned the hard way that there is a fine line between :

being rude and being honest

being weak and being harmless

being smart and being cunning (in a bad way)

FrostMost - October 6, 2025, 9:38 am

I learned the hard way that I need to take even the slightest responsibility seriously. I need to lock in for everything I do. Never repeated the same mistake again for now??????

RangoWorld - October 10, 2025, 1:15 am

"Take short-term pain for long-term gain."

sharn - *October 11, 2025, 12:39 pm*

Trusting the wrong people can hurt.
I do not make that mistake anymore.