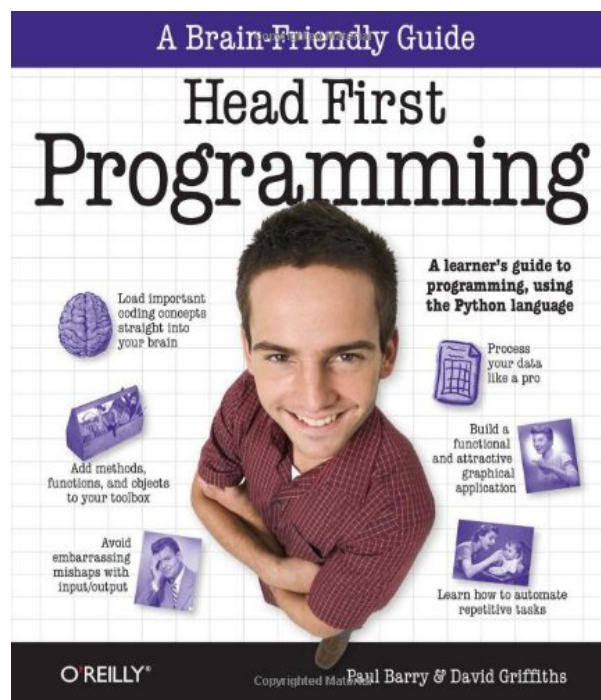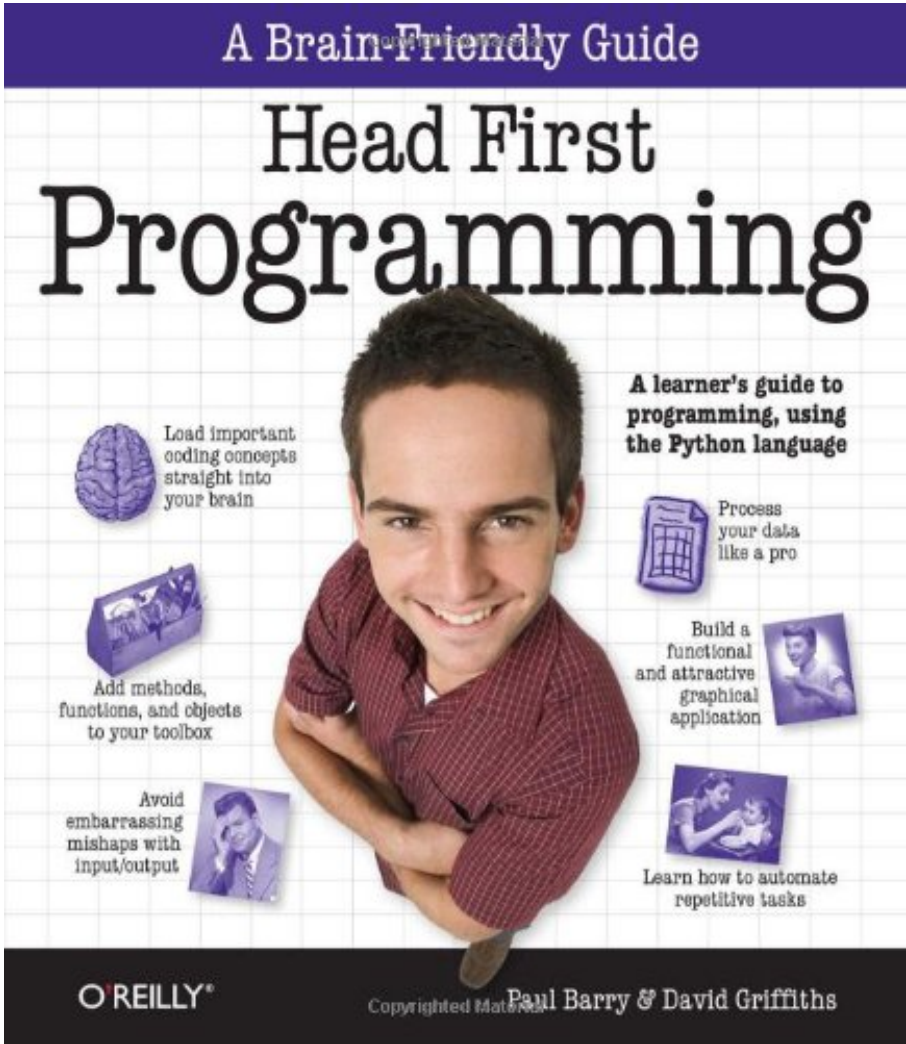# HEAD FIRST PROGRAMMING: A LEARNER'S GUIDE TO PROGRAMMING USING THE PYTHON LANGUAGE BY DAVID GRIFFITHS, PAUL BARRY

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About the Author

David Griffiths began programming at age 12, after being inspired by a documentary on the work of Seymour Papert. At age 15 he wrote an implementation of Papert's computer language LOGO. After studying Pure Mathematics at University, he began writing code for computers and magazine articles for humans and he currently works in the UK, helping people to create simpler, more valuable software. He spends his free time traveling and time with his lovely wife, Dawn.

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Looking for a reliable way to learn how to program on your own, without being overwhelmed by confusing concepts? Head First Programming introduces the core concepts of writing computer programs -- variables, decisions, loops, functions, and objects -- which apply regardless of the programming language. This book offers concrete examples and exercises in the dynamic and versatile Python language to demonstrate and reinforce these concepts.

Learn the basic tools to start writing the programs that interest you, and get a better understanding of what software can (and cannot) do. When you're finished, you'll have the necessary foundation to learn any programming language or tackle any software project you choose.

With a focus on programming concepts, this book teaches you how to:

- Understand the core features of all programming languages, including: variables, statements, decisions, loops, expressions, and operators
- Reuse code with functions
- Use library code to save time and effort
- Select the best data structure to manage complex data
- Write programs that talk to the Web
- Share your data with other programs
- Write programs that test themselves and help you avoid embarrassing coding errors

We think your time is too valuable to waste struggling with new concepts. Using the latest research in cognitive science and learning theory to craft a multi-sensory learning experience, Head First Programming uses a visually rich format designed for the way your brain works, not a text-heavy approach that puts you to sleep.

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Begin your journey here
By Bill
The head First series of leaning is by far one of the most ingenious and effective learning methods I've encountered. I work in the Software Dev field and wanted to expand my skillset in Python and Java.

I've tried other study guides with marginal success - Head First is straight forward, easy to understand, and the programs you write and run coupled with their methods of reniforcing programming principles really makes the learning enjoyable and I retain the material quite well.

Do be advised that the 3rd Chapter is out of date now with Twitter authentication and the workaround is kind of involved. Since Amazon won't let me paste the URL here, if you google Head First forums, then follow the appropriate link, you can then create a forum account and search the Knowledge topics for Chap 3 Issue with Twitter auth.

Back to the Head First series... the books are written for Python 3 users. I am running Python 2.7, so several of the programs and scripts they have you build, I have to do a lot of Google searching to get the commands I need to get the functions to run in Python 2.7. This is *NOT* a bad thing... the need to quickly Google for dev solutions at work is a daily task you will encounter anyway, so this gives good practice. Plus it really adds some nice seasoning to the various methods the book is teaching.

As to this book (as well as all of Head First's books I study) I can't recommend them highly enough.

I think you will be quite pleased with the things you make Python do as you work on the topics here. Enjoy and happy coding.

Excellent concepts, great place to start
By engineering student
If you want a slow intro to computer science concepts involving programming, this is an outstanding place to start. Python is friendly, and like others I cannot say enough about the teaching premise of the Head First Series. It has encouraged me to purchase HF Software Development and Python. I just finished this book and I'm just starting the Python book. It's given me the courage to enroll in another programming language class at the college level and start an undergrad Computer Science curriculum without wondering about all of the remediation I might need during the first class.

The friendly learning method aside, this is a seriously well written text. It has you developing a couple of apps in ways that most really develop, organically. It takes you through what are likely scenarios for some simple requests by people to do things that they show you how to do in a low key, no pressure learning method that will stay with you long after the book is on your shelf or passed to a friend.

If you had trouble with a programming class, missed out on the software skills you wanted to develop this is an outstanding first book. Does not matter if you are 50 years old or 19.

Not even thinking about it you learn about libraries, functions and code reuse. You learn how to do things you will no doubt see later if you continue with the series or head off to college or adult learning classes in any computer language. If you did scientific programming at one time and wanted to find a way to bite off newer technology which will let you not fear taking a College level android programming class or learning how to make an application, give this a try.

I expect that you will find this is a very important connection to get you into programming, no matter what your background. Oh yeah, the python book suggested you have programming experience of some sort, this book was the perfect answer. I now no longer say I'm going to learn programming, now I can build small programs which I think up and need to see a little more of the guts of the language, so the python book is my next read - for which I cannot wait. Starting today!

Good work HF. I'm thinking the process would work well with languages and even to introduce other subjects like electromagnetics... if I have time one day I could definitely see trying to contribute to texts like this. Great stuff!

they should call it python, not programming
By nate
i don't know why they call this book, "programming." i wanted a book that would mention a few languages - i wanted it to explain issues that are common to all programming. i wanted a book about arguments and parameters. object oriented programming vs procedure heavy languages. i didn't want a book about python. it is well written though, and presents accessible information.

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