

# Learning Elixir



Learning [Elixir](#) for fun and profit? It's not a secret that Programmers like a great holy war. The [echos of passionate programmers](#) shouting with their banners high live on Stack Overflow for eternity.

[The editor wars](#) rage on. Like many other holy wars, object-oriented vs. functional programming is an ongoing saga. Most programmers use functional programming even if they consider themselves object-oriented programmers. Many languages have become pragmatic and support both object-oriented and functional programming language paradigms.

I've enjoyed using the functional features of C# in the past and dabbled a bit with F#. I've never dove headfirst into a functional oriented language like Elixir. I mostly picked it up because I like [The Pragmatic Programmer book](#) and Dave Thomas as an author in general. I'm also interested in being able to do [concurrent programming with less of a hassle](#).

## Workflow

My workflow is a split window with the book and my IDE side by side on my Macbook. I'm trying things out as the material

progresses and am running through the exercises.

My Workflow

## Programming Elixir

As I traverse [the Programming Elixir book](#), I feel like I'm learning regular expressions. These terse expressions are power-packed, look at this beauty.

```
# The long way
add_one = fn (n) -> n + 1 end
IO.puts add_one.(1)
```

```
# The short way
add_one = &(&1 + 1)
IO.puts add_one.(1)
```

Building quick little inline functions will take little effort. It's a bit cryptic for my tastes, but if you're doing quick and dirty code for a single task, this is a good thing.

Look at that, a few regular expressions and concise syntax, this code returns true.

```
match_end = & ~r/.*#{&1}$/
IO.puts "cat" =~ match_end.("t")
```

This code boggles my mind. I can have a set of regex libraries that are named appropriately. I can chain those expressions...

what?!

I just convinced myself that learning Elixir is worth the investment.

## Learning Elixir – Beyond the Basics

- **Books**

- [Programming Elixir by Dave Thomas](#)
- [Elixir for Programmers by Dave Thomas](#)

- **Visual Studio Code Extensions**

- [vscode-elixir](#) ( Syntax Highlighting, Intellisense )
- [Elixir Formatter](#) ( Code formatting )
- [Code Runner](#) ( Select and run code in your editor )