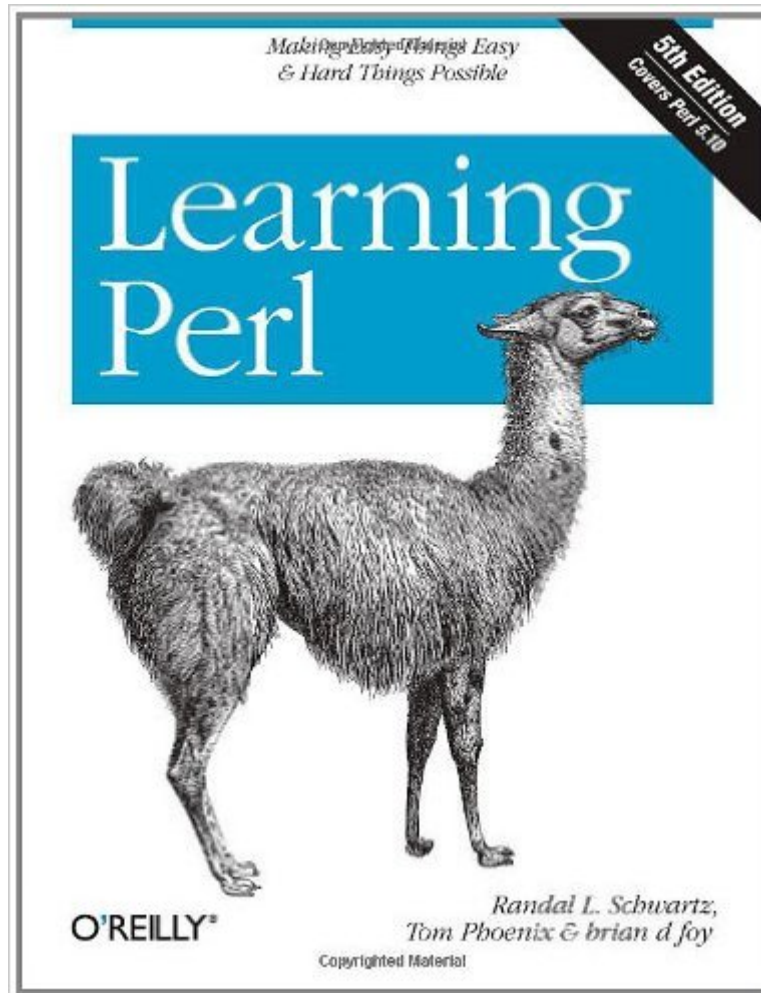# Learning Perl, 5th Edition

# Synopsis

Learning Perl, popularly known as "the Llama," is the book most programmers rely on to get started with Perl. The bestselling Perl tutorial since it was first published in 1993, this new fifth edition covers recent changes to the language up to Perl 5.10. This book reflects the combined experience of its authors, who have taught Perl at Stonehenge Consulting since 1991. Years of classroom testing and experience helped shape the book's pace and scope, and this edition is packed with exercises that let you practice the concepts while you follow the text. Topics include:Perl data & variable typesSubroutinesFile operationsRegular expressionsString manipulationLists & sortingProcess managementSmart matchingUsing third party modulesPerl is the language for people who want to get work done. Originally targeted to sysadmins for heavy-duty text processing, Perl is now a full-featured programming language suitable for almost any task on almost any platform-from short fixes on the command line to web applications, bioinformatics, finance, and much more. Other books may teach you to program in Perl, but this book will turn you into a Perl programmer.

# Book Information

Paperback: 352 pages

Publisher: O'Reilly Media; 5th edition (July 7, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0596520107

ISBN-13: 978-0596520106

Product Dimensions:  7 x 0.8 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds

Average Customer Review:  4.6 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (42 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #356,549 in Books (See Top 100 in Books)   #32 inÂ Books > Computers & Technology > Programming > Languages & Tools > Perl   #309 inÂ Books > Computers & Technology > Programming > Web Programming > JavaScript   #499 inÂ Books > Textbooks > Computer Science > Software Design & Engineering

# Customer Reviews

There could not ever be a better book for learning the Perl programming language than this one. The clarity of thought is unbelievable - the authors manage to provide a huge amount of detail while never going off on a tangent about exceptions to rules (something Perl, like English, is abundant with). If you want to get the basics of Perl under your fingertips in a *very* short amount of time, this

is the book for you.Let's face it - Perl can be a mess sometimes, and if you don't learn it from just the right angle, you'll find yourself knee-deep in a swamp. By choosing this book to learn from I effectively avoided all those pitfalls, and more importantly, adopted a clear way of using the language that has enabled me to write sophisticated, readable, even beautiful Perl code.After some experience with the language I find it incredibly enjoyable to use, and when Perl is written well, it's easy to read someone else's code (to all you naysayers - yeah, Perl LETS you write bad code, but you don't have to!). This book was key to getting off on the right foot. I would highly recommend it to anyone who has any interest whatsoever in the language. Even if you only plan to write Perl for your own purposes, recreational or otherwise, this is the perfect beginner's tool. Buy it.

I have already programmed Perl for years, but decided to spend a few days' free time re-reading the latest (5th) edition. I had previously learned Perl by reading the 1st or 2nd edition. This time around, I learned a few things that I neglected before. That is the good part.I enjoy the humor of the authors (in the same vein as Larry's Programming Perl). Humor makes the learning more pleasant. However, the incessant reference of the Flintstone is unbearable for a non-fan.I wish that the book were less wordy so that it can cover more in 300 pages, and that it would cover such fundamental concept as Unicode (good support since 5.8, while this book covers 5.10) in this day and age of globalized software/Internet environment.I also wish the book would give Win32 a bit more weight and be less Unix-centric.My opinion of the book may not reflect that of a total beginner, but if I put myself in the shoe of someone new to Perl but with a little bit of programming experience, I'd rate the Llama book to be a rather good one. At least, the writing and the English is good, which cannot be said of most technical programming books of today. Overall, I would definitely recommend it to anybody new to Perl (but not to programming) as the first book.

An oft-repeated allegation against Perl is that it is write-only. In my opinion, this allegation is usually made by programmers proficient in other languages that have trouble understanding or following Perl idioms (one trivial example: the use of for loops instead of the Perl-native foreach loop).The value of this book is that it teaches a beginner how to use idiomatic Perl. Someone learning Perl from this book will, in course of time, distinguish between line noise and well-written Perl.A small subset of Perl is covered, not quite sufficient for much other than basic text processing; however the learning provides a firm base for exploration of other Perl books in O'Reilly's Perl menagerie. Specifically, the "Camel" book (Programming Perl) becomes a lot easier to read once the reader has completed this book and work through its exercises.In sum, this is the best book for a gentle

introduction to a very useful language.

Had to learn Perl for a project at work. Picked this up along with Programming Perl. It's easy to follow, covers all the basics well, and has a modest sense of humor. For the purpose of getting quick exposure from authors in the know, this seems the better option than The Camel, but I imagine this is not comprehensive if you're trying to become a dedicated Perl programmer.

This is my first book that I have read to learn Perl. It is very well written. Concise and easy to understand. I would recommend it to others looking to learn Perl as well.

I re-bought this book a few times. I learned PERL back in the horse & buggy days. I have taught 3 of my children PERL utilizing this book to get them started. Very helpful, to the point, good examples.

This is by far one of the best technical books I've read on any programming language. The writing gets you interested in the topic and there is a great deal of explanation if you want it, but it's also easy to avoid when you don't. The book is organized well.

Learning Perl is a typical elementary book. You can find there everything, beginner needs. You will be guided through the basics of Perl, elementary data types, structures and conditional loops. What this book reminds me is good old "The C Programming Language" by Kernighan and Ritchie. Authors of Learning Perl simply go step by step and present language specific constructs to the reader. However, this book is not for everybody. It is neither a reference guide, nor a "Learn by example" kind of book. It's an elementary. You will be though Perl from the very basics and I am pretty sure this is great for people who begin their experience with Perl. What I liked within the book? Well, the "Some Advanced Perl Techniques" chapter - which is unfortunately very short, brought my attention. Another interesting part of the book was devoted to regular expressions, however I missed XML related examples and references. XML is quite important these days and to pass over it is strange thing for me. In general, I'd advise buying it to anyone who wants to learn Perl a consistent way rather than through "found in the Internet" examples. On the other hand, if you are looking for a reference or advanced book on Perl - try finding something else.

Download to continue reading...

Perl: Crash Course - The Ultimate Beginner's Course to Learning Perl Programming in Under 12 Hours Perl Programming Success in a Day: Beginners Guide to Fast, Easy, and Efficient Learning

of Perl Programming Learning Perl, 5th Edition Effective Perl Programming: Ways to Write Better, More Idiomatic Perl (2nd Edition) (Effective Software Development Series) Mastering Perl/Tk: Graphical User Interfaces in Perl Programming the Perl DBI: Database programming with Perl Perl by Example (5th Edition) By Charles Petzold - Programming Windows 5th Edition Book/CD Package: The definitive guide to the Win32 API (Microsoft Programming Series) (5th Edition) (10.2.1998) PMP EXAM Simplified-5th Edition- (PMP Exam Prep 2013 and CAPM Exam Prep 2013 Series) Aligned to PMBOK Guide 5th Edition Learning Perl on Win32 Systems Learning Perl Learning Perl: Making Easy Things Easy and Hard Things Possible Learning Perl (Nutshell Handbooks) Learning Perl Objects, References, and Modules The 5th Wave: The First Book of the 5th Wave Series Innovation in Open and Distance Learning: Successful Development of Online and Web-based Learning (Open and Flexible Learning Series) Implementing Cisco IP Routing (ROUTE) Foundation Learning Guide: Foundation learning for the ROUTE 642-902 Exam (Foundation Learning Guides) Implementing Cisco IP Switched Networks (SWITCH) Foundation Learning Guide: Foundation learning for SWITCH 642-813 (Foundation Learning Guides) Deep Learning: Recurrent Neural Networks in Python: LSTM, GRU, and more RNN machine learning architectures in Python and Theano (Machine Learning in Python) Unsupervised Deep Learning in Python: Master Data Science and Machine Learning with Modern Neural Networks written in Python and Theano (Machine Learning in Python)