

# Keep learning

## The road to self improvement never ends

**S**ummer is in the rearview mirror, and the kids are back in school. For parents, kids and anyone else involved in education, it's the beginning of another school-year cycle.

If you're no longer engaged with academic institutions, you can still continue to learn and improve your skills. Nightfall is coming earlier every day, and you will be spending more time indoors, so why not spend it learning?

**Skillshare.com** is an online collection of classes covering a variety of subjects, including art, design, technology and business. The lessons are delivered via videos by teachers who are skilled in their respective fields.

The lessons range in length from 10 or 15 minutes to up to 2 hours. The longer lessons are broken onto segments so you don't have to watch them all at once.

There are some free classes available if you register with the site, but the majority of them require a paid Premium membership. There are several payment plans available, including \$15 billed monthly or \$99 annually, which works out to \$8.25 per month. There also are rates for



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team memberships and some 30-day free trial options. The Premium plans offer perks such as access to all of the classes, no ads, classes can be downloaded for offline viewing, discounts on some software and online services, and more.

The site has a clean, easy-to-use design. You can quickly browse subjects of interest. When you find a class that catches your eye, you can watch a trailer of the teacher's pitch to help you decide if you want to continue.

If you are an expert in your field, you may want to consider becoming a Skillshare teacher. The site has a page with links to help guide you through the process. You get paid based on how many students take your classes.

Just like in actual classes — with real, live people in the room — the quality of the online instruction depends on the quality of the teacher. People familiar with a particular subject may recognize the names of some of the teachers as high achievers in their field. But just because someone is an expert at something doesn't mean they will be a good teacher. The way the material is presented is important, too.

Fortunately, there are more than 22,000 classes available, so you should be able to find plenty of teachers who do a good job. Usually you can tell after watching them for a few minutes if you want to continue with the lesson. If not, you can bail, and chances are you will find a similar class with a teacher you connect with.

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