

## LEARNING HOW TO LEARN

The classroom was never my comfort zone growing up. Although my teachers liked me, I struggled with learning, I was slow. Most of primary school I was in “special” classes for kids falling behind. Speaking was a challenge, reading was frustrating and spelling, forget about it. By the time I hit high school, I just knew how to cheat, I never really learned. Kindergarten through senior year was an academic battle for me and my strategy was to survive.

I thought I’d ditch the books and join the military. When the recruiter mentioned I’d go to a technical “school” to learn my job, I didn’t realize I’d actually be back in a school. Shortly after high school graduation I found myself in a 6-week-long logistics course, teaching me the fundamentals of the military supply system, 8 hours a day. Now the stakes were raised, I couldn’t cheat my way through and going home wasn’t an option. It was do-or-die, I needed to learn how to learn.

My dream was to travel and I knew that if I passed the course I would get orders to Korea with a follow-on assignment to Italy. For the first time in my learning-life I had motivation. I mixed that motivation with creativity and for the first time I was confidently passing tests. The subject matter was a yawn-fest, mostly codes and acronyms. I started turning those codes into drawings on flashcards, I played to my advantage, art. When the teacher mentioned the code, the drawing popped in my head and I was able to follow along.

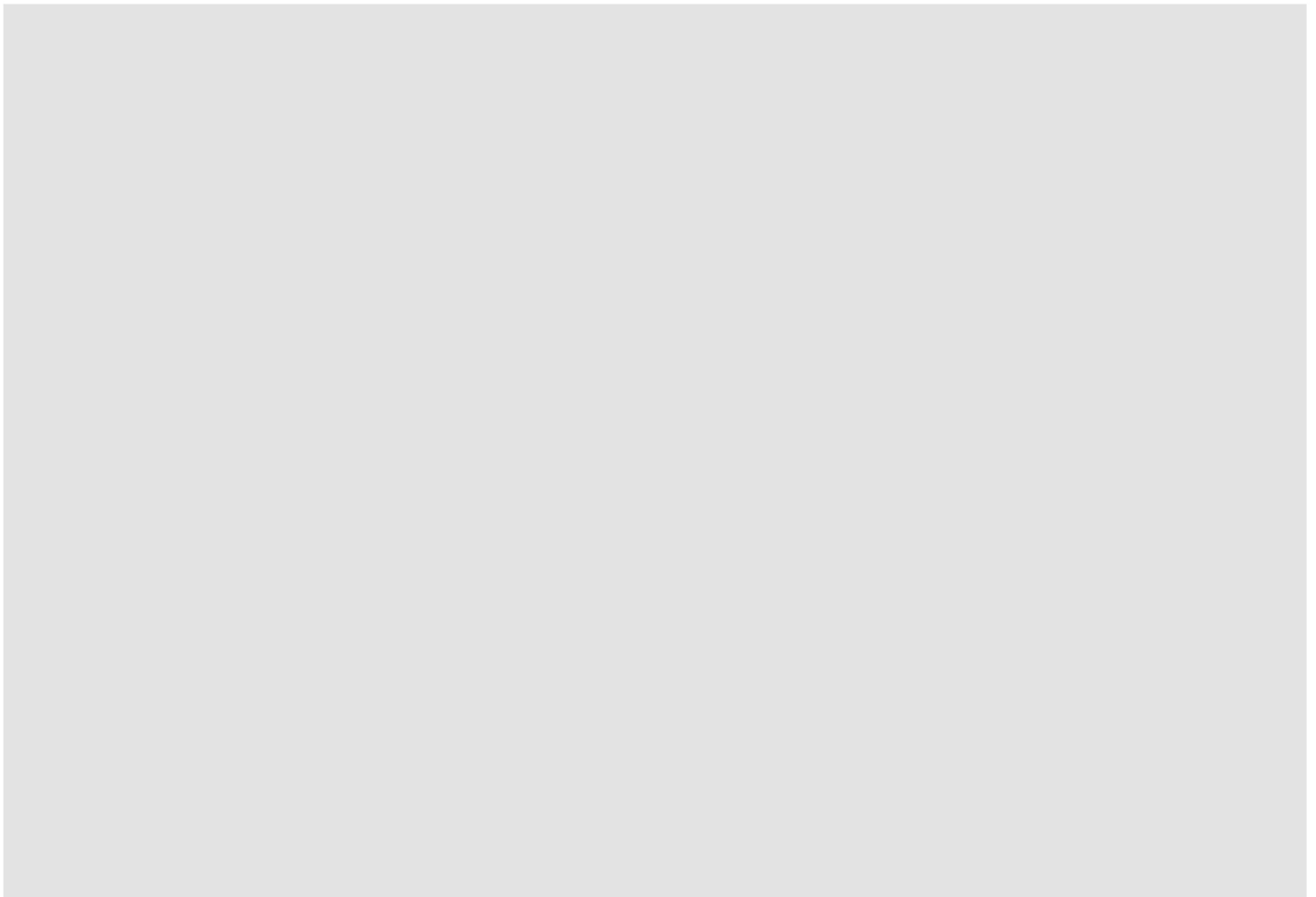
The education system in America is designed for a certain type of student and if that’s not you, you’re left behind. In more recent years I learned about dyslexia and realized I’m not slow, my brain just processes things differently. I still struggle with language, reading and spelling but I’ve learned to play to my strengths. I found myself the ‘academic cliffs edge’ and the military gave me the kick I needed to learn to fly.



## REFLECTION

1. It's important to understand your weaknesses. Are you able to identify where you struggle? Procrastination, frustration and a lack of patience can be indicators of your weakness.
2. Are you aware of the different learning styles? I went the majority of life not knowing there were learning styles. I recommend you give Google a quick "learning styles" search, it could make all the difference.
3. I'm a visual and kinesthetic learner. Pictures, note cards, maps, graphs, and moving help me learn. Make a list of how you learn and then what you'd like to learn, if you do this often, you'll encounter new levels of growth.

## NOTES



## SHARE

This series was inspired by the ring. Like a fighter, we depend on the people in our corner. We can only fight for so long before we need rest, healing and feedback. This series was simply written to help you fight the good fight. Whether you're lacing combat boots, sneakers or oxfords, let's favor a plan to crush the trials ahead. If you've felt empowered or inspired through these short stories, like iron sharpens iron, I encourage you to share this with your team.

Thank you for subscribing to my newsletter. I appreciate you sticking around for my storytelling. If you envision ways for me to improve, your feedback would be much appreciated. Please keep in touch, reach out or send a shoebox of money.



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