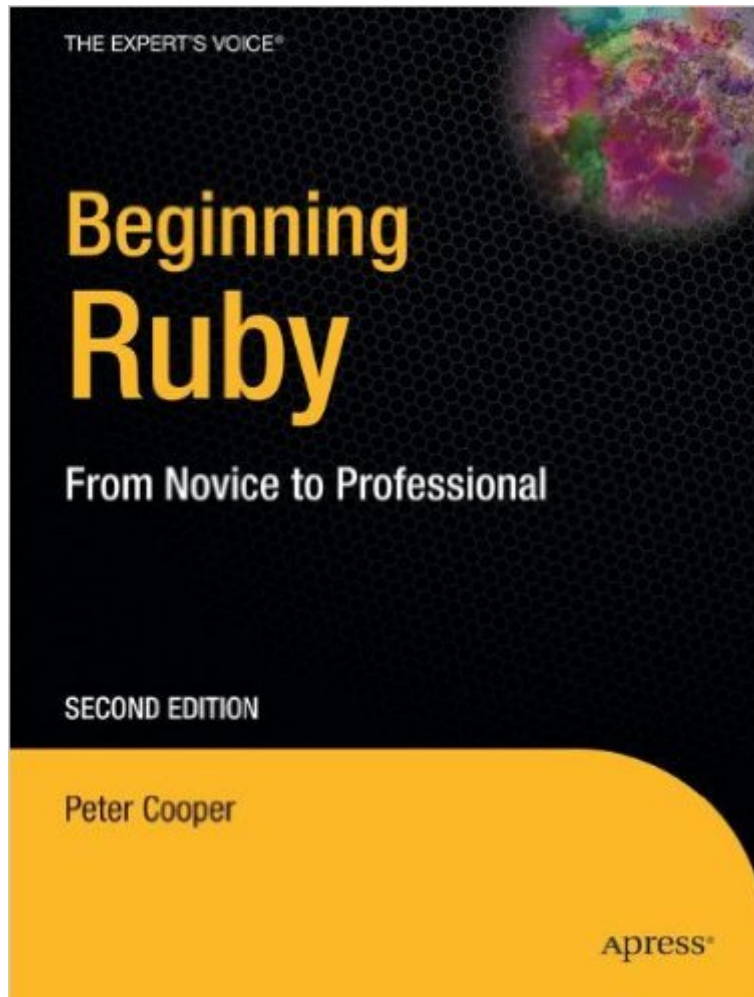


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# Beginning Ruby: From Novice To Professional (Expert's Voice In Open Source)



## Synopsis

Based on the bestselling first edition, *Beginning Ruby: From Novice to Professional, Second Edition* is the leading guide for every type of reader who wants to learn Ruby from the ground up. The new edition of this book provides the same excellent introduction to Ruby as the first edition plus updates for the newest version of Ruby, including the addition of the Sinatra and Ramaze web application frameworks and a chapter on GUI development so developers can take advantage of these new trends. *Beginning Ruby* starts by explaining the principles behind object-oriented programming and within a few chapters builds toward creating a full Ruby application. By the end of the book, in addition to in-depth knowledge of Ruby, you'll also have basic understanding of many ancillary technologies such as SQL, XML, web frameworks, and networking. Introduces readers to the Ruby programming language Takes readers from basic programming skills to web development with topics like Ruby-based frameworks and GUI programming Covers many ancillary technologies in order to provide a broader picture (e.g., databases, XML, network daemons)

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book was good, if a little out-dated. It provides a solid base of information regarding Ruby, but as of September, 2010, the information it provides on Ruby 1.9 is limited and sometimes incorrect. This is not to say that it is a bad book, however. Considering that Ruby 1.9 was only recently begun when this version of the book, version two, was published, one cannot set the blame

on the author, Peter Cooper, for the incorrect information, especially as Mr. Cooper is one of the leading sources of knowledge regarding Ruby (via his blog at [rubyinside.com](http://rubyinside.com)). Despite the occasional bits of incorrect or lacking information concerning Ruby 1.9, the book itself provides a wealth of information regarding Ruby in general. It focuses primarily on Ruby 1.8, and the overwhelming majority of the code which powers Ruby 1.8 is transferable to Ruby 1.9. My biggest complaint concerning the book was the lack of examples it has. While Mr. Cooper provides a true wealth of information, the examples were often small and rarely built upon previous material until one reaches chapter 12, at which point one builds an entire application. Even once one reaches this chapter, the code is not always the easiest to work with, as the code typed out in the book may have a minor change in it which will be difficult to locate to update in your own code if you do not already have a solid grasp on the material presented earlier in the book. Additionally, in chapter 13, Mr. Cooper gives a basic look at Ruby on Rails, the currently-leading Ruby Framework. Unfortunately, from the very first line of code typed in regarding Ruby on Rails, the code is incorrect. Cooper's Beginning Ruby was written prior to the release of Rails 3.0, which has introduced a myriad of changes to syntax. It will not hurt a person to simply skim over the chapter on Ruby frameworks to learn a general gist of information concerning them, but do not expect the code there offered to be of any use to you. Simply said, if you are looking to learn Ruby, this is an excellent book to start with if you pick up on information by reading and hearing better than you do with examples and seeing. If you prefer to see more than hear, this would be a good second book to go with, once you have a basic level of experience with Ruby. I fully intend to read through Cooper's Beginning Ruby again once I've a stronger grasp on the language, and feel it is a good choice to truly solidify one's understanding of the language. However, do not be surprised when some of the Ruby 1.9 information is incorrect, and do not be surprised at the no-longer-functioning code dealing with Ruby on Rails. My recommendation regarding Peter Cooper's Beginning Ruby, Second Version: Go for it. It is a solid book for learning Ruby, but do not be wholly surprised when this particular version has become obsolete in the future. I would hope to see a third version, updated for Ruby 1.9, with general information regarding Rails 3.0, to become available in the early- or mid-parts of 2011, but until then, this is a solid book to start with.

I think Cooper darts from concept to concept too quickly, in an effort to keep the reader interested in building something. Sometimes a reader will encounter a certain Ruby concept several times, over several chapters, before that concept has received sufficient treatment to sink in. I especially thought that the ramifications of the "everything is an object" concept in Ruby were

underdocumented, and only really intelligible several chapters after Cooper thought he had covered it. Also, I have to discourage the purchase of the Kindle version. Though body text will scale up, code snippets in the examples will NOT. The code is simply not legible on my Kindle Touch. Cooper is not without talent as a technical writer, but I think in his efforts to make things accessible, he lost sight of the importance of conducting a structured analysis of the language. That, combined with serious legibility issues, forced me to send this one back.

I have found this book to be very well written, organized and easy to follow, regardless of the reader's programming experience and/or Ruby knowledge. I have been programming for over 30 years, in several other languages, but this is my first attempt at learning an OO language. I recommend this book to anyone wanting to learn Ruby.

Well written with plenty of examples. It assumes that you know nothing about Ruby. Takes you from the classics "Hello World" through to programs. A bit repetitive in spots, but that can be good too. As a neophyte to programming I felt it well worth the time to study because the study had a positive outcome. Definitely written for someone dipping into programming. I would recommend it for beginners or just for a glimpse of how to program.

I'm a software architect and needed to pick up Ruby for a new job... this book is completely worth it and like most 'beginning' books, there's a good 5 chapters at the beginning that you could skim, but as you get into the heart of it, the book does a great job of detailing out the landscape of Ruby development and handles introducing new concepts throughout in ways that I've found easy to pick up and map to other languages that I'm familiar with (C#, VB, PHP, C++). There is an assumption that you have some level of understanding of object oriented programming, so you may want to pick up a book or two on that prior to getting into this one... admittedly I skimmed that section, but there are a ton of resources online to cover that too... I've always been a fan of books that Apress publishes and have found their books, in general, to be well written, thorough and good not only for picking up new concepts, but also as references later on (I still have my c# .net 2.0 book on my desk!). If you need to learn a Ruby, buy this book. You'll likely want to have a few different references, but with this book and the online documentation, you won't have any issues.

While outdated, this is still a great beginner book. Be sure you're using the correct Ruby version when going through this book. I created an RVM gemfile with Ruby 1.9.1 and a folder for the book/

project. So that whenever I went into the folder I'd be in the correct version. And everything was cake from there on.

Great book! Teaches the fundamentals to the complicated. Learn this and add Rails will make you a powerful programmer. Learning programming is an everyday job that requires tenacity and determination. This book on the shelf can do nothing. Make this book a part of you and you have opportunity.

Nice read. I used this book to pick up ruby. The web development part is outdated, so ignore that part of it. The ruby parts are good though. I'd look for a more up to date version though because there's been some additions to ruby since this came out.

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