

# Useful skill sets

29 upvotes | 20 December, 2014 | by NightwingTRP

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One of the major things which underlines red pill philosophy towards life is constantly bettering yourself. It's something I easily relate to because I used to think that way as a kid. I seemed to lose my way a little when I got lost in the rat race. Another thing I've noticed is that not all skill sets are as useful as others. If we discount the basics such as lifting and reading, what would you as an individual RP man recommend as a skill set or two that people consider learning?

Cooking, nutrition and a greater depth of knowledge on alcohol would be my recommendations to anyone reading this. Diet goes hand in hand with lifting - cooking allows you greater flexibility with what you eat and allows you to increase the quality of the food you eat. Greater knowledge of alcohol, what is best for you and how to enjoy it more etc is simply because... you might be drinking less or it may just turn into an occasional treat, so you'd might aswell get the most out of it.

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## Comments

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thebuddhalifts • 26 points • 20 December, 2014 11:05 AM

How to fix your car, change a lightbulb and other household problems eg. How boilers work, electricity,gas, radiators. All these things could save you a heck of a lot of money. Especially if you have just moved out and you are on your own, with little money to play with.

[deleted] • 10 points • 20 December, 2014 03:35 PM

I can go on line and find step by step instructions or youtube videos about how to repair just about anything. Used this resource to repair my clothes dryer and replace the power window mechanism on my truck. The window repair was easy. I had to remove 9 screws only and saved \$300-400.

HumanSockPuppet • 18 points • 20 December, 2014 06:45 PM

When all of your information comes from the internet, knowing how to fix your computer becomes skill #1.

canteme13 • 3 points • 21 December, 2014 04:44 AM

Yeah. I got quoted \$90-\$100 to fix my iphone screen. Checked online, found a video and bang; \$27 for parts; labour = free. Lesson learned = Priceless. Next I'm going to attempt to replace an old laptop screen. #Winning

Gigem\_longhorns • 2 points • 20 December, 2014 08:09 PM

He was probably using his phone.

[deleted] • 5 points • 20 December, 2014 03:33 PM

Are there classes to teach stuff like how to fix your car, how to do home repairs, DIY etc? I know I am not the only one who grew up having never been taught these skills, nor do I personally know anyone that does since I'm in an upper middle class bubble where most people pay others to do this stuff.

RickByer • 4 points • 20 December, 2014 07:43 PM

This is what friends are for - find a friend who knows some of this stuff, and ask him for help. Offer to help him back in some area that you know something about yourself.

Also, pick an area that you personally find interesting (woodwork, electrical, computer, mechanic, construction, etc), and then make a proactive effort to figure that area out before you need it, gradually buy the special tools, etc. Then slowly let your family & friends know that you're becoming the expert in this area, and help them out when they need help.

I have one friend who is an expert in fixing & servicing watches - he started because it was fun, but now his hobby has turned into a part-time side job that more than pays for itself.

I have another friend who is a car mechanic on the side - he started off small but no job it too big for him now. He's enjoys doing it, and now any car work in his extended family is at least 50% off.

This stuff will make you a better friend to have, and when you need to ask someone to help you figure out why your computer isn't working, you don't have to feel bad because you probably helped the same guy fix his washing machine.

Red\_SoloCup • 1 point • 21 December, 2014 06:20 AM

This. Besides, doing favors like this for people *builds* friendships. I scratch your back, you scratch mine.

[deleted] • 1 point • 21 December, 2014 12:42 AM

The bubble is pretty bad. I have fixed things that could be fixed with a paperclip and it is done. Parents drop \$200 for a "professional" to do what I did but with \$2 bolts.

dropit\_reborn • 1 point • 20 December, 2014 05:04 PM

There really aren't, but google is your friend. I mean, /r/trp exists.

cocaine\_face • 2 points • 20 December, 2014 05:51 PM

There are classes to do car repairs

[deleted] • 1 point • 21 December, 2014 09:28 AM

Not to mention this kind of stuff actually makes you more attractive to women, which doesn't get brought up a lot here. I've actually noticed it a lot indirectly, and the last time I asked a girl about what she thinks is sexy about guys, being able to fix shit was high on her list. Not because she needed shit done, but just because it gives you a manly aura.

And for those of you wondering she said no it's not really the same thing if you can fix computers but it does count somewhat. I am a sexy dude either way but I am thorough in my research.

esco\_ • 13 points • 20 December, 2014 11:50 AM

Fishing, hunting

Martial arts (primarily the more practical ones - boxing/kickboxing/judo/jiu-jitsu)

Being able to build/fix things (house, car, boat, whatever) would also be great.

All of these skills have practical utility, even if you don't *need* to use them

redkick • 0 points • 20 December, 2014 09:59 PM

Martial arts (primarily the more practical ones - boxing/kickboxing/judo/jiu-jitsu)

Krav Maga, Combatives

I wouldn't waste my time on judo, jujitsu or boxing, if all you want is usefulness in daily life.

All of them have certain traditions or rules you don't want to have when you're attacked away from a mat/tatami. Kick a boxer in the nuts and he's down. A judoka will get a fist in his face before he's able to land the first throw. A jujitsuka will try to fixate you on the floor only to be taken down by your friends within seconds.

esco\_ • 1 point • 20 December, 2014 10:29 PM

they all have practical use, the effectiveness of each in certain situations is up for speculation. The ones you listed are more rare tbh. In my city of 500,000 people, there is no krav maga. Then you have to wonder about how good the club where you learn it is, if there is only one in your town

redkick • 1 point • 20 December, 2014 10:43 PM\*

Yes, Krav Maga is very hit-and-miss, because there's no official certification for it. It's the same for

Combatives, although the people teaching that tend to have practice (like police special forces and bouncers).

I'm pretty surprised that there's no Krav Maga in your area. In mine, there are some clubs in towns half the size of yours.

However, I didn't list these because they're common, but because they're the only ones I'm aware about that are effective (plus kickboxing). All east-asian ones value tradition over effectiveness, which isn't the kind of thing you want in a RP context.

[deleted] • 1 point • 22 December, 2014 01:22 AM

Hitting someone who's in a bladed stance in the nuts isn't that easy. Especially if they can check kicks.

AkihiroDono • 1 point • 26 December, 2014 07:51 AM

Your average BJJ blue belt would wreck someone with 10+ years of Krav Maga.

If kicking someone in the balls is part of the training? Ignore it. And do something useful. Krav Maga is fucking useless compared to BJJ.

redkick • 0 points • 9 January, 2015 03:28 PM\*

BJJ has no end-game, they might lock someone down on the ground, but then don't know what to do any further. I've sparred with someone doing BJJ, and when I had him in lockdown, he just laid there and didn't move at all, waiting for me to switch my position. That's a death sentence on the street.

Also, in Combatives, you always assume that the other person has a knife somewhere and the only reason that it wasn't drawn yet is that you've kept them too busy defending themselves. When you have a knife in a ground fight, somebody will die. The only defense against a knife is distance.

Besides that, I've been to a seminar with a very experienced BJJ trainer, and he got asked whether there is an end position in BJJ (where the other person cannot get out of). He only knew one and demonstrated it, and it was so hilariously complicated to get into that you wouldn't even have a one in a million chance to get to that position in a chaotic situation.

In regular Jujutsu, you could choke the other person to unconsciousness within a few seconds at least.

AkihiroDono • 1 point • 10 January, 2015 05:04 AM\*

This is 100% clearly either made up, or you went to a McDojo. It'd so incredibly full of shit it's ridiculous.

fap\_the\_pain\_away • 9 points • 20 December, 2014 03:07 PM

Personal finance and early retirement

Investing

Entrepreneurship

How to talk to police (summary: don't)

Computer programming

Computer building

Computer fixing

Marksmanship

Sewing

Wood chopping

Fishing

Ham radio

How to gain citizenship/open bank accounts/get work in multiple countries

Powertalk

northsidefugitive • 6 points • 20 December, 2014 02:51 PM

Foreign language skills and meditation techniques. Both are extremely good for mental health and adaptability.

Air4ce1 • 6 points • 20 December, 2014 04:28 PM

Now, I'm on christmas break from Uni and I want to use this month to get a huge jump start on becoming fluent in spanish. Do you know the best method to do that? Classes, one on one tutors, software program?

northsidefugitive • 1 point • 20 December, 2014 06:47 PM

Classes work well, but they only stick if you apply the knowledge. Find native speakers, practice, learn. I spent 2 years in high school working at taco bell with my managers critiquing my Spanish and teaching me more, and that really made useful, conversational Spanish stick.

Redpillonlyaccount • 1 point • 20 December, 2014 08:32 PM

The Michel Thomas method is a great way to start.

eyeteaoddit • 6 points • 20 December, 2014 03:49 PM

Learning to program changed my life completely.

a2abfcd4 • 3 points • 20 December, 2014 06:24 PM

It did the same to me.

I learned everything in Java (up to the version 8) and it did wonders on my structure of thinking. Seriously, my thoughts became much more organized after I learned serious OOP.

papadop • 1 point • 20 December, 2014 11:37 PM

I've been very curious to learn too - How has it improved your life? Any tips on how best to learn?

eyeteaoddit • 3 points • 21 December, 2014 03:32 AM

It made me irreplaceable at my old job and got me my current job. It was not easy. Its not like I did a few tutorials and "knew" how to program...I spent hours grinding every day for a year before I even had a clue what was going on. There isn't one tutorial that will teach you. You have to basically have no idea what's going on and fail for a long time. Its really discouraging because it feels hopeless but over time you make progress.

If you want to start then I'd suggest going to /r/learnpython and read the sidebar and search for posts that talk about starting out. Google and stack overflow are your friend as well. Also programming encompasses a wide arrange of topics so if your stuck, don't be afraid to switch gears and try a new language or topic.

If you have questions feel free to ask me as I'm willing to help.

JovianTrainWreck • 1 point • 22 December, 2014 07:15 AM

If you have questions feel free to ask me as I'm willing to help.

Not sure if u/papadop is gonna hold you to that offer, but I just might. Though it's fair to assume that programming isn't something that can be easily jumped into without at least an 80% level of interest, so I'll think on it.

[deleted] • 2 points • 21 December, 2014 09:37 AM

Best way to learn is to do. This will get you started:

1. Decide on something simple you would like to make
2. Find out what languages you have to choose from that would work for that
3. Take a few basic tutorials on that language to get the fundamentals
4. Try to make the thing from step 1
5. Google "how do I do this in X language" whenever you get stuck

Stack Overflow used to be awesome for someone learning. It's just ok now but it would still be a good place to turn when you get stuck on something.

And yes, learning to program definitely teaches you how to think better.

CommodoreSillyPants • 6 points • 20 December, 2014 06:48 PM **[recovered]**

Here are some skills that I have been working on:

1. Leather-working
2. Woodworking
3. Carpentry
4. Outdoors/survival skills
5. Lock-picking
6. Basic sewing
7. Computer skills such as building computers, writing software, graphic design, web design (these are all MUCH easier to learn than most people want to believe.)
8. Guns/weapons/knives
9. Fixing your car, upgrading it yourself
10. Flying small planes/helicopters (huge bonus for getting your dick wet if you say you can pilot a helicopter.)

There are nearly endless skills you could use or get interested in that will help you as an individual and raise your SMV.

If anyone wants any information on the above 10, feel free to message me, the best way to learn something is to teach it.

[deleted] • 2 points • 20 December, 2014 07:35 PM\*

Computer skills such as building computers, writing software, graphic design, web design (these are all MUCH easier to learn than most people want to believe.)

Last year a guy said he build a computer and I was all "Holy shit, that's incredible!" Now I've been doing more work with computers, and realize that it's dead-simple. Originally I thought that you actually had to solder the capacitors and all that together... Not so in reality.

Gigem\_longhorns • 2 points • 20 December, 2014 08:17 PM

Yeah, just newegg some shit and throw it together. \$1000 can get you a pretty damn good computer.

RedBigMan • 2 points • 20 December, 2014 11:55 PM

Hell for a desktop \$500 can get you a pretty good computer. When I was just getting into computers the pricing point was like \$2000+ for a decent computer.

• points • 1 January, 1970 12:00 AM

[permanently deleted]

NightwingTRP[S] • 6 points • 20 December, 2014 03:29 PM

I think an extra point on first aid is required. I'd strongly advise you to learn first aid guys, because there's very high probability (I think the stats are like 85% or 90%) that if you ever end up using your first aid skills, it will be on someone you really care about. Don't be the guy who needs instructing over the phone and then has to live with the guilt later.

Diece • 3 points • 20 December, 2014 05:33 PM

Being able to fix mechanical things. You save a lot of money.

MattyAnon • 3 points • 20 December, 2014 06:39 PM

Public Speaking without doubt.

Confidence, vocal tonality, getting your point across, body language, presence, expressivity. You get great development and feedback on all of this and you get to face a very common phobia too.

As the Hitch once said "If you can deliver a great speech you'll never have to drink - or sleep - alone".

It's both a great skill to have and a lot of what you learn is directly related to communicating with women.

NeopolitanAfterglow • 4 points • 20 December, 2014 04:02 PM

If you enjoy rhythm and can maintain a beat, learn a masculine instrument. Electric guitar is obviously the most masculine, followed by drums, acoustic guitars, and keyboards. Jazzy flutes and saxophones are in the middle. Don't even think about playing a bassoon, harp, xylophone or ukelele.

absentian • 5 points • 20 December, 2014 04:06 PM

Music is about playing your role in the band. If you enjoy playing bassoon then you should play it, but just recognize that it isn't nearly as sexy as guitar.

NeopolitanAfterglow • 1 point • 20 December, 2014 05:04 PM

Sure thing. Everyone has their "guilty" pleasure. After a rough workout at the gym, I enjoy taking candlelight bubble baths with fruity soaps and shit.

But if you don't already have a "masculine" hobby, it's probably a good idea to get one.

[deleted] • 5 points • 20 December, 2014 07:17 PM\*

You like shitting in the tub when you take a bubble bath? That's about as masculine a hobby as I can think of.

Gigem\_longhorns • 2 points • 20 December, 2014 08:12 PM

No, he saves his shit then throws it in when he is about to bathe.

NeopolitanAfterglow • 3 points • 20 December, 2014 08:23 PM

Yep, love those bath bombs! Lol

brotherjustincrowe • 2 points • 20 December, 2014 06:18 PM

Give the fiddle some love. I can't imagine anyone beating the Devil in a keyboard contest.

Gigem\_longhorns • 1 point • 20 December, 2014 08:14 PM

I want to learn cello someday. It's such a great sound.

beerthroway • 1 point • 20 December, 2014 05:43 PM

If you think sax is "in the middle", I have two manly people for you:

Ron Swanson and Bill Clinton.

As a kick ass sax player, I have never received anything short of gushing pants. Sax is very very sexy. No jazz flute is not on the same level.

NeopolitanAfterglow • 1 point • 20 December, 2014 06:13 PM

No jazz flute is not on the same level.

Lol, really?

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_c\\_ufaxeSTs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_c_ufaxeSTs)

beerthroway • 2 points • 20 December, 2014 07:22 PM

That's a movie. Not real life. Show me the hoards of women killing each other to get to the floutist. Flute is in the middle. Sax is near the top.

Sax is far more rare than guitar, drums, bass. This makes the novelty of seeing a sax very enticing. I've been playing sax for 13+ years now, consistently, so I'm a pro level player. Even if I was as good on flute as I am on sax, I *guarantee* that I wouldn't make as much of an impact as I do with sax. Sax is just far more dynamic and expressive on any range of the spectrum than flute could ever be.

If your opinion of the sax is that, cool, but your observation that sax isn't as manly as guitar is wrong on many accounts. Don't mix opinion with field tested results.

NeopolitanAfterglow • 1 point • 20 December, 2014 08:21 PM

That's a movie. Not real life.

Lol, dude, you mentioned Ron Swanson!!!

NeopolitanAfterglow • 1 point • 20 December, 2014 08:32 PM

Sax is far more rare than guitar, drums, bass.

As if rarity has anything to do with SMV. You don't see many men playing the tubular bells, but that doesn't mean women will get wet at the mention of it.

Come on, for every panty dropping sax player with curly golden locks and a chiseled stomach, there's a balding one with a ponytail and a beer gut and a face like Danny DeVito.

beerthroway • 2 points • 20 December, 2014 09:27 PM

We aren't talking the same person anymore. You're changing variables. I'm talking the same

instrument here. You claimed that guitar is more manly than sax. I'm simply saying I play both and get a far better response when I'm on the sax. I'm equally great on both and will play circles around most people (not just bragging, it's my profession). Perhaps I'm a sample size of one but the fact that the exception exists means you need to adjust your definition or scale.

NeopolitanAfterglow • 1 point • 20 December, 2014 08:37 PM

Also, just because sax is SMV+++ for you doesn't mean it's not SMV--- for someone else. You have to be to own and operate the sax persona, not just the instrument.

ihaphleas • 2 points • 20 December, 2014 03:19 PM

Summary: management and self-reliance.

brotherjustincrowe • 2 points • 20 December, 2014 06:21 PM

Basic plumbing and electrical is key, some carpentry and masonry are also very valuable, not strictly essential but always better to know than not.

relationshipdownvote • 2 points • 20 December, 2014 06:49 PM

You can learn a shitload now from youtube, learn shit that saves you money first, that has an immediate payoff. If something breaks, go on youtube and learn how to fix it. Sink, car, washing machine, whatever.

Another skill that I found pays dividends if you are young is learning how to dance. You learn how to freestyle one type and it's very low maintenance, just learn how to do it really well and you can impress everyone around you in whatever situation you are in where you can dance, a club, a wedding, whatever for pretty much the rest of your life, and it stays with you pretty easily like riding a bicycle. It does take a fairly significant investment, watch a bunch of videos, focus on the specific movements of their body, their feet, their hands, where they put their weight and how they move it. Then start videoing yourself with your computer or phone or whatever, and watch it. Figure out what looked stupid and what you did wrong. Keep doing it until you can move like whatever video you watched. If you get good enough, you should not have too much trouble in front of other people.

Learning how to play an instrument is similar. Just watch a video, record yourself and keep doing it until you know you have it right. The only drawback is it is a bit easier to forget than dancing.

AlfredTheGreatest • 2 points • 20 December, 2014 06:59 PM

How to back in a trailer. Serious man cred.

[deleted] • 2 points • 21 December, 2014 02:12 PM

Financial aptitude. Learning about trading, real estate, accounting, taxes, personal finance, and investment vehicles. Everyone should be spending time every day on these subjects. You are not going to grow your wealth and become financially independent without them. Rat race is the ultimate beta machine - you should plan a way out.

ihaphleas • 2 points • 20 December, 2014 02:40 PM

Navigation

How to drive (stick and motorcycle too)

Add every form of transportation to that: swimming, running, hiking, boating (both motor and sail)

Basic knots

How to tie your shoes and tie and scarf

How to ski

... basically everything a Boy Scout might know ... but skip the religious stuff. Get a copy of the handbook, especially an older one, and take a look.

• points • 1 January, 1970 12:00 AM

[permanently deleted]

ihaphleas • 1 point • 23 December, 2014 06:09 AM

Don't drive like an ass. You may make a stupid woman's 'gina tingly, but you've lost the respect of every responsible man.

• points • 1 January, 1970 12:00 AM

[permanently deleted]

ihaphleas • 1 point • 23 December, 2014 02:32 PM

Yes, I'm aware (though you reminded me of their existence -- I've been in Europe for too long, maybe). I'm not concerned about people going fast when there is good visibility and no one else around -- the life you take in your hands is your own (and her's). ... Speaking of the yellow signs though, they're usually on curves (poor visibility usually) or where a smaller road intersects a highway -- neither of these is a safe place to speed. Note, you may be perfectly able to control the car around that curve, but if you're already near the limit of your abilities anything unexpected (a driver in the wrong lane, a dog, ...) could tip the scales. Not worth it.

• points • 1 January, 1970 12:00 AM

[permanently deleted]

ihaphleas • 1 point • 23 December, 2014 11:59 PM

I don't think I've assumed anything about you in particular. You may very well be a much (technically) better driver than I -- probably so, since it's not a skill I've tried to improve, always staying well within my limits, I don't even know where they are. ... Remember that when you're on the road you should stay well within not only your limits, but everyone else's too (if that's possible) -- there is no need to frighten or surprise other motorists. ... Get a motorcycle if you want to wet panties without endangering others ... and make sure you're an organ donor. (Just ribbing you a bit, okay.)

• points • 1 January, 1970 12:00 AM

[permanently deleted]

ihaphleas • 1 point • 24 December, 2014 03:12 PM

No, I understand what you mean. I don't care if you break the law, I just want you to abide by the 'social norms' when you're driving near me. I don't want anyone to have a surprise while in control of two tons of steel.

marlybarrow • 1 point • 20 December, 2014 11:59 PM

Knowing how to learn is a pretty important skill.

Self introspection and knowing when to seek help for your emotional issues.

Refining your outlook on life and how you go about your day to day business.

None of these are practical, quantifiable skills but becoming competent with them will improve your life and make it easier for you to learn and enjoy lots of other skills and hobbies.

watersign • 1 point • 21 December, 2014 01:15 AM

know how to use MS-Excel. every business needs it..even the smart guys at google and amazon use ms excel. outside of white collar work...know how to change your oil and do a brake job on your car.

or just know how to use tools in general.

Red\_SoloCup • 1 point • 21 December, 2014 06:18 AM

Call me a nutcase if you want, IDGAF, but be ready for everything. I mean fucking everything. When you're walking through a sketchy part of town, keep your knife close and your eyes wandering. Keep duct tape, a lighter, a knife, jumper cables, a bottle of water, and a road map and compass in your car at all times. Read up on how to start fires using everything from a battery to a tin can. Know how to shoot a gun and wield a knife effectively. Be able to make a small shiv out of anything you can. For me, this knowledge that I can handle any crazy fucking situation makes me feel like any standard day-to-day shit is easy. I like to think "If civilization collapsed *at this instant*, would I survive the initial bloodbath where I currently am, with what I currently have? And if not, why? Am I at least bettering myself so that if it collapsed later, I'd be more prepared than I would be without this current lapse?" And obviously that doesn't apply to every situation (read: Friday and Saturday nights when I'm fucking hammered) but you get what I'm saying.

Also, know how to take care of your stuff. Learn to shave with an old school straight-edge razor, buy a nice one, and take care of it. Wash your car. Mow your lawn well. Fix up your house. Build something. It's like a manly meditation.

[deleted] • 1 point • 20 December, 2014 04:00 PM

Greater knowledge of alcohol.

<http://www.returnofkings.com/35541/the-gentlemans-guide-to-bourbon>

This is a good article about how appreciate Bourbon and other whiskeys (whiskys). Every man who drinks beer and wine should read it. I found an online source about Scotch as well. When you're out at the bar never order a Scotch with water or on the rocks.

NightwingTRP[S] • 2 points • 20 December, 2014 04:08 PM

I've been to a couple of bars in Scotland which still have the old tap at the front of the bar so you can do your scotch and water yourself and avoid the barman fucking it up (mostly because the standard of bartending in this country is atrocious!)

[deleted] • 0 points • 21 December, 2014 12:39 AM

Better knowledge of drugs in general. There are a good number of fully legal psychedelics (though avoid "LSA" because the effects aren't from LSA and it can cause liver damage)