



Lesson #5

Common Problems & Where We Are Heading

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I'm So Lost

We've all certainly been there at one time or another. In web development, one comma or one missing closing bracket could send you running around in circles for hours on end. Some problems are easier to fix, others are not as apparent. What you should keep in mind:

- You will make those mistakes, no matter how long you've been doing this. Don't beat yourself up over it.
- They will happen. Sometimes its beyond your control.
- The sky is not going to fall on your head. Common to contrary belief, making a mistake in your code is usually pretty safe. If the particular lesson requires careful treading and is potentially harmful, I'll tell you. So relax.
- There's always a work around, almost anything can be fixed.

Because of that, I've built a knowledge base where you can look up solutions to common problems, questions and mistakes – for web development in general, not only Blog Theme Bootcamp.

Click here to visit the [Blog Theme Bootcamp Knowledge Base](#).

The knowledge base is a live database of information and answers collected from all Blog Evangelist students. So if you know of a shortcut, have a solution to a problem or even have a question. I encourage you to submit it into the knowledge base.

Where Are We Going?

Some students have been wondering what we'll be learning so they will know if they should get private help or not. Building a theme is a pretty structured

exercise to answer that question, let's re-cap what, we've done so far. We have talked about:

- What tools to use
- Setting up your Sandbox blog
- Learned the very basics of PHP
- Begun to convert an HTML template into PHP

We're just getting our feet wet. For next couple of lessons, the pace is going to slow down so we can really take it one baby step at a time. This will hopefully allow you time to really experiment and master the step. You can look forward to learning about.

- Getting yourselves acquainted with WordPress tags
- Focus on building each theme file
 - + header.php
 - + footer.php
 - + index.php
 - + sidebar.php
 - + single.php
 - + comments.php
- Completing the theme by adding optional theme files (not limited to the ones below)

- + home.php
- + archive.php
- + page.php
- + author.php
- + 404.php
- + search.php
- + tags.php
- Learning about Page templates
- Developing different templates for each category
- Developing different sidebars for each category
- Widgetizing your theme
- Finalizing and packaging your theme for distribution
- Case studies & how to work out real life client requests
 - + Converting existing (old) sites from HTML to WordPress
 - + Moving your WordPress
 - + Merging two WordPress installations
 - + Tools and plugins to make your themes sexy

- + Packaging your WordPress for easier, faster, installations
- + Quick and easy ways to mass upgrade WordPress on the web
- + Securing WordPress

In between some of these lessons, you can also expect special 'lessons' such as these that are not exactly in the flow. Topics that will help you better make use of the tools you already have, troubleshooting and handling clients.

So there you have it. This list, especially the case study areas could change a little over time, but the bulk of it is there. If you have any topic you think should be covered, or want to learn, do let me know. I'm open to suggestions. If you have figured out solutions to any problems, don't forget to help out other Blog Evangelists students by submitting them to the knowledge base.

Look out for the continuing lesson next week. I will be introducing you to tags.



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