

# HOW TO START WITH SCALA?

SCALA TIPS AND RECOMMENDED SOURCES TO LEARN,  
PREPARED BY OUR DEVELOPERS:

- Start with the Programming in Scala book, co-written by Martin Odersky, creator of the language. Make sure it's the third edition, which covers Scala 2.12. The book is really worth reading, as it thoroughly explains all the features and all the ways you can write a line in Scala. It can take a long time to read the whole thing, but you can do other stuff in the meantime.
- Get familiar with testing frameworks (scalatest, scalacheck, maybe specs2) and SBT basics.
- Watch the “7 sins of a Scala beginner” by our colleague @kubukoz <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z2YzCzfUNNk>
- After you get to know the language and spend a good amount of time writing small programs in it, it would be a good idea to learn Akka (at least the basics and the problems of concurrent programs it helps solve) - just use the official documentation on <https://doc.akka.io/docs/akka/current/scala.html>
- For real life applications, you'll probably need some sort of persistence. For SQL, Slick and Doobie are popular choices, but again, the official docs will do just fine.
- If you want to educate yourself in functional programming, you'll find “Functional Programming in Scala” (the Red Book) and “Book of Monads” that explain the general concepts from the ground up.
- For specific libraries, there's “Functional Programming for Mortals” that covers Scalaz and “Scala with Cats” about ... yes, you guessed it@ Other than documentation for Cats, “Scalaz and ZIO” is a good source of information.
- The “Functional Programming Principles in Scala course on Coursera might be worth pursuing. There are also other courses specialising in Scala <https://www.coursera.org/specializations/scala>
- Last but not least, follow and read some good functional programming / scala blogs. An up-to-date list of some of them can be found here: <https://medium.com/@FunctionalWorks/the-best-functional-programming-blogs-49303cc701b5> - it also includes our blog (<https://blog.scalac.io>)

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## Recommended links:

- Courses from <https://www.coursera.org/specializations/scala> are cool and free
- Books from <https://underscore.io/books/> are cool and free
- Examples on: <https://www.scala-exercises.org/>
- I can definitely recommend “Scala for the Impatient” (<https://www.amazon.com/Scala-Impatient-2nd-Cay-Horstmann/dp/0134540565?tag=duckduckgo-ffab-20>) While it shows a bit too much of mutable APIs it shows and explains quite well all mechanisms which are used in language. I’ve been learning Scala using this book and that was a huge boost for me
- I can recommend books and courses which you can find on the official site `scala-lang.org` <https://scala-lang.org/documentation/learn.html>
- For more advanced: <https://leanpub.com/fpmortals> And possibly Book of Monads, <https://www.amazon.com/Book-Monads-practice-applied-problems-ebook/dp/B07JNZHYLT>
- I can recommend “Scala cookbook” (<https://www.amazon.com/Scala-Cookbook-Object-Oriented-Functional-Programming/dp/1449339611>)
- Entry-level for learning about FP is the RED BOOK <https://www.manning.com/books/functional-programming-in-scala>
- Entry-level for Scala itself is the staircase book- [https://booksites.artima.com/programming\\_in\\_scala\\_3ed](https://booksites.artima.com/programming_in_scala_3ed)