

Swirl

There is a package for learning R called “swirl”. This interactively asks you to enter R commands and checks your code.

To install this package, within R select **Packages** then **Install package(s)** from the menu. You may need to choose a CRAN mirror - select a UK one - then select “swirl” from the list of packages. (The procedure is the same for installing other packages.)

In RStudio, the option is
Tools -> Install packages

This will install the package on your computer. Once a package is installed, you need to load it into R in order to use the functions it contains. To do this the command is

```
library("swirl")
```

You need to have this `library(...)` command in each session in which you want to use the package.

Then to start a lesson, type the command

```
swirl()
```

After that, a series of on-screen instructions appears, prompting you to choose a lesson, to enter some code or to answer a question.

Selecting “R Programming: The basics of programming in R” and then “R Programming” brings up a list of 15 options starting with “1: Basic Building Blocks”. Options 1, 3, 4 and 6 are most relevant at this stage.

Note that this package uses `<-` for assignment (e.g. `x <- 3` instead of `x = 3` to set `x` equal to 3), whereas I use `=` in my examples.