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The guide to learning
a new skill in the
comfort of your home

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As people around the world spend more time at home, many of our members have found they have the opportunity to pick up a new hobby, perfect a current one or learn a new skill. Keeping yourself busy and creating a new routine will help to make this time more enjoyable and productive.

Creating a change in your daily routine and stimulating your brain through music or crossover activities that use both the left and right sides of your body will keep your mental energy at its peak. We've curated a list of activities including trusted apps and online services, which our members and lifestyle experts have used to make their time at home more memorable.

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Food and drink

Banana bread is taking over social feeds as globally people rediscover the joy of baking. Once you've mastered your banana loaf using [Chrissy Teigen's popular recipe](#), you can start experimenting with dishes of varying difficulty. Start out with simple pantry-staple recipes from Claire Thomson with [The 5 O'Clock Apron](#) on Instagram and elevate your home cooking to Michelin levels with award-winning Italian chef, Massimo Bottura, who hosts [Kitchen Quarantine](#) at 8pm GMT. His [five-ingredient toasted cheese sandwich](#) is a member favourite.

You can also take your bartending skills to the next level with GONG Bar at the Shangri-La Hotel at The Shard London with a series of [cocktail masterclasses](#) presented by Luca, the head barman. For the bread lovers, [The Perfect Loaf](#) can elevate you from an aspiring baker to a real one with the website's array of excellent recipes. If you have some extra time, use it to refine your baking skills and bring home the dough.



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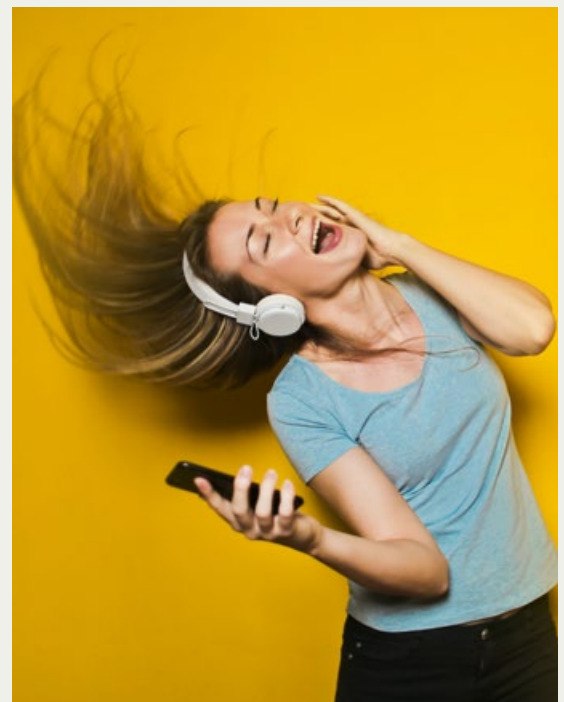


Music

Playing the piano is an enviable skill, and if this is something you aspire to, there's an app that can make learning much easier. **Simply Piano** by JoyTunes was developed by music teachers around the globe and works on a tablet or mobile phone by simply placing it on your piano or keyboard when you start playing. This app will give you feedback on your playing and courses range from beginner to intermediate and expert. If you've got a guitar collecting dust, sign-up to **Guitar Tricks** which is ideal for all levels and musical tastes. Also, **Yousician** (for Android, iOS, Windows and MacOS) uses videos, animations and performance feedback to teach guitar, bass, piano, ukulele and singing.

Dance

Whether you're trying to master the **Renegade** with your kids on **TikTok** or finally considering taking up a classic dance like ballroom, start moving your body and experience the mood-lifting benefits. If you're a Strictly Come Dancing fan, learn from Oti Mabuse and her husband, Marius Lepure, both professional dancers teaching choreographed dances for adults and children on **YouTube**. Other member favourites include virtual dance studios such as **Move GB**, which offers jazz, Zumba and dance fitness classes, **STEZZY Studio** for urban dance styles like popping, hip-hop and krump, as well as the **Royal Academy of Dance** and **Sadler's Wells** that offer free virtual ballet workshops and performances. These studios offer subscription-based classes over a range of dance styles.



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Languages

Start learning the nuances of Mandarin, delve into the complexities of advanced Spanish or brush up on your French. Learning a new language is challenging and stimulating, and a great way to keep your mind active during downtime. Some of our members' favourite apps include **Duolingo**, for its enjoyable gamification lessons, **Babbel**, which offers 14 main languages and teaches using dialogues, and **Memrise**, which allows you to watch conversations from native speakers so you can hear the dialects. **Rosetta Stone** sets you up with a live coach for one-on-one sessions - **our members can access unlimited classes with up to 47% off**. Get in touch for details. **Open Culture** provides free tools for learning languages with audio books, courses and lessons, and **Busuu** uses machine learning technology to provide lingual lesson plans for 10 minutes each day.



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Art

Painting is a visual activity that develops hand-eye coordination and can help develop your and your children's artistic abilities. Entertain the family with painting classes taught by well-known artists on YouTube such as [Kevin Hill](#), [Jerry Yarnell](#), [Bill Martin](#), and [Mark Carder](#). Even a master of the craft such as David Hockney has found new ways to embrace painting through modern mediums using his iPad or iPhone while he self-isolates; his newest work was showcased on [Instagram](#) by the Louisiana Museum of Art. For members who are wanting to become digital artists or improve their art, Photoshop skills are essential and there's no better time to learn a new technique from Adobe with [SkillShare](#). SkillShare also offers classes on graphic design, digital illustration, photography, and animation.



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DIY

There are always items that can be fixed or repurposed in any house, and you can find nifty hacks on the [5-minute crafts](#) DIY channel, from sewing tricks to helpful quick fixes. [DIY Perks](#) requires a bit more focus with instructional videos on how to create your own folding desk or studio lights – a modern MacGyver channel of design and technology, it's perfect for helping you add personal touches to furniture, appliances and accessories. Taking you back to the art of woodworking is [Steve Ramsey](#); with his sense of humour you'll quickly learn to make use of what tools you have and tackle woodwork projects with confidence.



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Gardening

Pick your favourite gardening tools and delight in the fresh air outdoors with some inspiration from BBC's **Big Dreams, Small Spaces** or **Gardeners' World**. If you prefer to be in nature with trowel in hand while learning on-the-go, BBC podcasts on **Homes & Gardens** gives you instant access to gardening experts and their advice. We have also compiled a comprehensive gardening guide for you, which you can download **here**.



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Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.

Mahatma Gandhi



Family time

Watch the UK's Supernanny, Jo Frost, offer hardworking tips for instilling routine and discipline in the home. She has full episodes from season one to eight available on [YouTube](#) and also offers great advice for parents who have children diagnosed with conditions such as ADHD and autism. Finding activities that your little ones will enjoy is made simpler with [Pinterest](#) – learn how to create an obstacle course or host a treasure hunt; the ideas are endless. For TV time, [CBeebies](#) has a great range of interactive games and shows suited for young children.



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Career skills

Fine-tune your professional skills and update your knowledge with e-learning companies such as [Coursera](#), [edX](#), [Udemy](#) and [LinkedIn Learning](#). You can also supplement it with workshops and events from [TED Talks](#) and [Adobe Summit](#). If you manage your learning consistently there are websites that host regular webinars and help reinforce concepts; [Hubspot](#) and [Career Contessa](#) offer a wealth of industry advice and know-how.

Maintaining a positive frame of mind is very important during this time and we recommend the audio book of The Happiness Project, available on [Audible](#), while the [Calm](#) app will help you relax and destress. Stay updated with great ideas and new perspectives on how to work and live with [Big Think](#).