

Appendix B

Feedback from the learners of the Data Carpentry workshop in 2021

Day 1 - Spreadsheets/Open Refine

I like/enjoyed/well done

- The pace and explanation + the low threshold to ask questions +10000
- The pace / being able to ask for explanation. It was really relaxed and clear and made me want to ask questions if I couldn't follow along.
- interaction/ easy to follow
- Patience to explain again and the general clearness
- Perfect
- Explanations were clear and it was easy to follow
- Great content, and responsive chat for questions
- Perfect structure of the Details content, interactive, helpful explanation
- Very good class structure. Very easy to follow. The instructors showed a lot of confidence on the subject.
- Nice explanation about all the tricks.
- Good pace and level of content
- Very good level of interaction
- Good that you started with the spreadsheets and openRefine, instead of diving into R immediately!
- Nice pace, easy to follow
- Useful content, good pace and very helpful instructors and helpers
- Using the google doc to get comments, document everything, etc.
- Very clearly structured and nice explanations. Also, very good online material.

Don't like/could be improved

- Using break-out rooms for activities like “discuss and think about...” is ok if there's plenty of time to spare, but it is really frustrating to use time for that while there's limited time like in this case. More than once the instructor had to skip over something because of time constraints.
- Using the break-out rooms for discussing the data. Maybe this is more valuable with larger assignments
- Breakout rooms do not work in this working from home times :(
- Instead of breakout rooms we can get more information or do practical activities to put in practice things we are learning.
- Sometimes hard to see what was going on teachers screens as too small.
- The shift from clicking buttons to coding went maybe a bit too sudden in OpenRefine

- Had difficulties finding the OpenRefine data, turned out there were two setup pages to read through.
- Maybe more breakout room sessions would strengthen the learning (practice makes perfect)
- A bit more practising with OpenRefine would have improved my learning experience (similar as you did it with the replacing of [transformation), but I get that there is not unlimited time

Additional feedback on breakout room: *I felt that the activity was engaging and contributed to make me an active participant in my learning process (although I agree the second breakout room was not necessary, the task could have been included in the first).*

Day 2 - R: Introduction

I like/enjoyed/well done

- Not having breakout rooms was great! The class felt so much better!! Thanks a lot for listening to the feedback :) +1
- Everything was perfect! Very clear!
- Very interesting and clear regardless of my ability to understand this type of things :D
- Clear and Good pace in the first parts
- The class is very good and easy to understand. Good pace. The breakout rooms are a good tool do understand certain aspects, but today they were unnecessary.
- Thank you for a good and clear explanation. Doing exercises is helpful
- Everything is clearly explained by the step-by-step coaching.
- It was a really clear explanation; the exercises are a nice challenge. Also, it is really awesome that everything is documented. Thanks so much
- Really cool, and so nice when it works!
- Cool session and nice pace!
- Awesome that everything is documented
- Good pace, clear instructions and documentations! Great that there are enough helpers around, things run really smoothly! Plenary exercises worked well
- Excellent! The content, responsive chat, the pace.
- It was really enlightening, informative and really interesting!

Don't like/could be improved

- The last bit about the years was a bit too quick, but that's on me and my mind. Would be good to re-do that at the start of the next lesson
- This last part of `as.numeric` and `as.character` is a little confusing, but it is a problem of R not of the teacher I think. +1
- Cannot think of anything, thanks a lot!!
- Please don't use the breakout rooms again...+1
- It was hard to concentrate on the exercises when there was talking in the background
- There could have been more practical exercises +1

- Mildly rushed at the end, but ended with a plot so all is well. This time around I had to rely on a separate screen (iPad) to be able to follow along

Day 3 - R: Data Wrangling

I like/enjoyed/well done

- Liked it very much, it was an intense morning but everything was clear
- Very clear! Great workshop!
- It was very interesting. Very clear. Exercises help to understand much better.
- Very interesting, especially the second half of the workshop. Good exercises too.
- It was super! [The instructor] was amazing and very informative!
- Clear explanation at the beginning
- Wide versus long data explanation was very clear, the covid example was great.
- The explanation was clear.
- Well done everyone for handling questions on the fly
- Thanks a million, it was really inspiring
- Really clear explanations
- Very clear and useful, thank you very much! Thanks a lot for always keeping feedback in mind :)

Don't like/could be improved

- Size of the screen is too small, sometimes it's hard to follow.
- Some commands were actualized and reused in their original lines. That makes it more difficult to follow. It would be better to copy and paste the command in the sequence.
+1+1
- Fast in last 10 minutes
- I did not like copying and pasting commands today ([the instructor] did it several times from the tutorial). It significantly speeds up the workload (I understand that it is good for saving time). But it is difficult to follow code lines by lines and to understand what is going on in every line because we just get several lines of codes immediately +1+1+1
- A bit too slow in the first half of the workshop. Some explanations/comment were a bit redundant +1
- As we had to "learn" many things, it might have been useful to go a little slower with explanations :) +1+1+1
- Was a bit fast in the beginning. I would prefer if the commands were typed rather than copied and pasted by the instructor. Makes it hard to keep up. +1+1
- Sometimes moving too quickly to look at the dataframes in the script window, so that I don't have enough time to look at the commands in the script +1
- Please slow down

Day 4 - R: Visualisation

I like/enjoyed/well done

- Yeah exercises in the break is good! +1+ 1 +1
- Very clear and good speed. Enjoyed a lot! + 1
- Very clear explanations, it was very good. I learnt new tools to plot.
- I liked the exercises during the break
- It was at a good speed
- It was excellent!!! All thumbs up
- Exercises during the break is great! I can choose how to manage the time better :) And giving some time for exercises without going to breakout rooms is also still great.
Thanks!
- Good pace today, clear explanations.
- I liked that the exercises were in the break :)
- I really liked doing exercises in the break. Gives even more time to think. Also, very good level of the explanation.
- Some helpers support us a lot. +1
- Instructors were really nice and did good explanations
- I liked to have the exercises connected to the break
- Pace was great, felt comfortable.
- I did not mind the exercises in the breaks.
- The whole process of this course is very clear and well organized. +1+1
- I enjoyed the exercise during the break and the details explanation
- I feel so cool typing in code & it working - gives me hope for my own project
- Exercises during breaks were perfect. Speed and clearness top.
- Is there a place / some people we can approach with more difficult questions: how to make visualisations of object combination groups in early medieval graves for example

Don't like/could be improved

- People should prepare themselves better before the classes. Knowing how to open the files is quite basic and has been explained in the first class. +1
- JSON at the end was too much as my brain was full!+1
- Not too enthusiastic about exercises in the breaks,
- Breaks should be shorter.
- Helpers not always answer the questions.
- Slow down in the beginning of the lesson - usually people have trouble opening files / setting up their program.
- I think it might be nice to add short (kind of like the exercises during class) homeworks between sessions when there is a multiple day gap. Would help to refreshen, prepare, etc. +1
- Resorting to the google sheet for code created problems as there were syntax errors or formatting issues. This could be avoided following the actual tutorial in the carpentry webpage. However, the lesson sometimes diverted from that.