

Learning New Proficiencies

Adventuring is difficult and dangerous work, with not a lot of chance for self-improvement. Sometimes, you just want a moment to relax and focus on your hobbies like picking up a new language, skill, tool, or weapon to keep your mind off the ancient evil hurtling towards the planet, who is intent on destroying all life. This proficiency system is meant for the purpose of learning additional proficiencies as you journey across the world and visit exotic locales and try new things.

Just because the life of an adventurer is filled with danger, doesn't mean you can't pick up a tool for retirement.

Training

In order to learn a new language, skill, tool, or weapon, you must train at least 4 hours a day. During this time you are practicing and, after you practice, you can attempt a Training Check in order to increase your understanding.

You can gain a new proficiency in a language, skill, tool, or weapon. The DM may decide that other proficiencies can be learned in this way.

Limited by Intelligence

You can only learn an additional number of proficiencies equal to double your Intelligence modifier (minimum 1).

Training a Proficiency

You must first select which language, skill, tool, or weapon you are going to be training and practicing, and then determine the appropriate ability for that proficiency.

The appropriate ability is based off of what is being trained on and the ability helps determine how quickly you can pick up the new proficiency. See the chart below.

Proficiency and Ability

New Proficiency	Ability Required
Language	Intelligence
Skill	Varies
Tool	Varies
Weapon	Strength or Dexterity

Skill and Ability

The ability for skills is determined by the ability most commonly associated with them, see page 174 of the *Player's Handbook (2014)* for more information.

Tool and Ability

The ability for tools is determined by the DM, though a chart further below provides suggestions.

Weapons and Ability

All melee weapons require Strength, unless they have the *finesse* property. All ranged weapons require Dexterity.

Training Your New Proficiency

Once you have selected what you wish to train, and have chosen the proper ability score, you can then spend four hours and at the end of practice, you can then roll a d20. This is your Training Check and on the result of a 1, you have successfully made progress on training your new proficiency. You can now roll a d12 instead of a d20 when you make your next Training Check.

The Training Check die continues to decrease in size on every result of a 1. This means that your Training Check die will begin as a d20, and then slowly get smaller as you increase your own understanding and make progress on your training. It goes from a d20 to a d12, d10, d8, d6, and last a d4.

Once you roll a 1 on a d4, you mark a Training Success and you must gain a number of Training Successes equal to your Proficiency Bonus. Once you gain a number of required Training Successes, you are considered proficient.

You can only make a Training Check once per day. If you practice for an additional 4 hours a day, for a total of 8 hours, on a result of a 1 or 2 on the die, you can make progress and move on to the next die. Spending additional time training has no additional effect on a d4.

Relevant Abilities

Your relevant ability modifier, that you choose when you first began training, allows you to automatically succeed and make progress on your Training Check a number of times equal to the ability modifier, up to a maximum of five times. This means that your die size automatically decreases a number of times equal to your modifier. See the chart below.

Ability Modifier	Your Starting Die Size
+0	d20
+1	d12
+2	d10
+3	d8
+4	d6
+5	d4

If you are a 2nd level Cleric with a +3 bonus to Wisdom and you wish to learn the Medicine skill, you would start out with a d8 for your Training Check. At the end of 4 hours where you practiced and studied medicine, anatomy, and health - you would then roll a d8. On a roll of 1, you would then move on to a d6 for the check. You would repeat this Training Check until you gained 2 successes on a d4 die.

Cost of Training

Every day you attempt to practice, it requires a certain amount of gold in order to cover supplies and materials needed. This cost does not cover the cost of purchasing a weapon or tool, and before you can begin training you must purchase one first. This cost is 2 gp per day, this covers materials, memberships, or other required goods. The DM may determine that certain services or supplies cost more.

Training Help

If you are able to find someone to help you train, when you roll your Training Check, you can make progress and move down to a smaller die on the result of a 1 or 2. If you spend 8 hours training with your helper, you can instead choose to re-roll the die and take either result.

A trainer provides no additional benefits on a d4.

Tools and Abilities

Below are suggestions for key abilities to be used to determine the starting die size for gaining a tool proficiency.

Tool Set	Ability
Alchemist's Supplies	Intelligence
Brewer's Supplies	Wisdom
Calligrapher's Supplies	Intelligence
Carpenter's Kit	Strength
Cartographer's Tools	Wisdom
Cobbler's Tools	Dexterity
Cooking Utensils	Intelligence or Wisdom
Climbers Kit	Strength
Disguise Kit	Charisma
Forgery Kit	Dexterity
Gaming Sets	Dexterity or Wisdom
Glassblower's Tools	Dexterity
Gunsmith's Kit*	Intelligence
Healer's Kit	Wisdom
Herbalism Kit	Wisdom
Jeweler's Tools	Dexterity
Leatherworker's Tools	Dexterity
Mason's Tools	Strength
Musical Instruments	Charisma
Navigator's Tools	Wisdom
Painter's Supplies	Dexterity
Poisoner's Kit	Intelligence
Potter's Tools	Dexterity
Scrollscriber's Supplies*	Intelligence
Smith's Tools	Strength
Thieves' Tools	Dexterity or Intelligence
Tinker's Tools	Intelligence
Wandmaker's Tools*	Dexterity, Intelligence, or Wisdom
Weaver's Tools	Dexterity
Woodcarver's Tools	Dexterity

*Tool created by [Dump Stat Adventures](#)

Variant Rules

A few variant rules are provided to better customize this system for your own table.

Variant Rule: Armor Proficiency

The DM may decide to allow characters to gain a proficiency in armor instead of taking the feats provided in the *Player's Handbook*. In order for a character to gain an armor proficiency, they must be proficient in at least one piece of armor from the previous category, except for light armor that does not have qualifications.

This means if you want to be proficient in a set of heavy armor, you must have at least one proficiency in light armor, and one proficiency in medium armor.

Variant Rule: Cost of Trainers

The cost of trainers can vary greatly depending on what you are working on, suggested prices are provided below. Common and Uncommon are for determining the rarity of teachers. In a major city, it might be difficult to find someone to train you in Survival though it might be easier to find a sage to help teach you an ancient or forgotten language.

The rarity of certain teachers and trainers is based on where you are and is determined by the DM. A trainer could take on many forms, from a prestigious library to an old monk to a retired adventurer offering training as payment.

New Proficiency	Cost of Trainer per 4 Hours
Uncommon Language	5 gp
Common Language	2 gp
Uncommon Skill	10 gp
Common Skill	5 gp
Uncommon Tool	6 gp
Common Tool	3 gp
Uncommon Weapon	5 gp
Common Weapon	2 gp

Variant Rule: Incremental Bonus

The DM may decide to give characters a partial bonus to their new proficiency based off of the number of successes they have made on their d4 die. This means if you have a +3 Proficiency Bonus and have only succeeded on your new proficiency two times, you can still get a +2 bonus to the roll instead of the full +3 bonus.

Credit

If you like this, consider supporting [Dump Stat on Patreon](#). Get access to a printer-friendly version of this system, along with access to all our homebrew in one spot.