

teachable

# 17 PROVEN WAYS TO MAKE MONEY ONLINE

WHEN YOU HAVE LITTLE  
TIME AND MONEY



## Letter from the author

When I tell people I make money online they tend to assume that I'm running some sort of Ponzi scheme. But I've never been a good enough liar to pull that off, so instead I blog. While I make pocket change, there are plenty of other people who have completely replaced their full-time jobs in favor of making six figures working online.

There are countless ways to make money from home, but not all monetization tactics are created equally. In this guide, I'll walk you through some of the most common ways online entrepreneurs make money and provide you guidance on getting started with each.

*Morgan Tinnin*

*(Content Marketer at [Teachable](#) and  
Blogger at [Mostly Morgan](#))*

This guide includes 17 methods you can use today to start making money online. **The full list to the right is ranked in ascending order considering three factors:**

### 1. Do you need a lot of money to get started?

0 - 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5

A lot of investment needed

Very little investment needed

### 2. Do you need a lot of time to make money?

0 - 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5

A lot of time needed

Very little time needed

### 3. How much money can you make?

0 - 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5

A few extra bucks a week

Full-time income

## Methods covered in this guide:

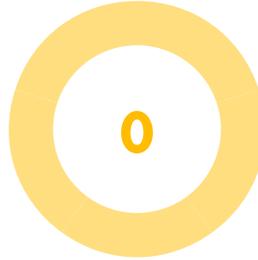
- 17 Fiverr
- 16 Foap
- 15 Blog
- 14 Ebook
- 13 Course Marketplace
- 12 Affiliates
- 11 YouTube
- 10 Search Engine Evaluation
- 09 Domain Flipping
- 08 Podcasting
- 07 Virtual Assistant
- 06 Brand Ambassador
- 05 Crowdfunding
- 04 Freelance Writing
- 03 Online Store
- 02 Freelance Design
- 01 Selling Online Courses

## Earn money online with Fiverr

Do you need a lot of **money** to get started?



Do you need a lot of **time** to make money?



How much money can you make?



Because there was no clear data on how much the average seller makes on Fiverr, it's safe to assume that most users aren't making significant income.

### How it works:

If you've been trying to build an online empire for anytime you've probably heard of Fiverr. And because you've heard of Fiverr you may have let out an audible groan when you saw it listed here.

Despite the criticism Fiverr receives, the site is a legitimate way to make money online, but it is in no way the best way. Fiverr's entire premise is that you can sell 'gig's for \$5 but for most people a few \$5 gigs won't pay the bills.

Especially because Fiverr takes 20%, so really you're selling it for \$4 (and that's before PayPal takes their cut).

Of course, that doesn't mean you can't make good money on Fiverr. Because like any good rule, there are exceptions, and **some people do make thousands of dollars each month on Fiverr.**

Your time and talents are typically worth more than what you can make on Fiverr. While you might be pulling in a few hundred dollars here and there on Fiverr, another platform (\*cough\* your own) could be making you even more.

### How to get started

1. Click the green "Start Selling" button on the upper right hand corner of Fiverr's homepage
2. Enter your information to create an account
3. Pick which category you fit best into (writer, video editor, developer, designer, etc.)
4. Fill out your gig info and set a price

From there you can hope for the best or start marketing on social media and community marketing websites. If you're lucky you'll become a featured seller which will help drive sales.

## Earn money selling pictures

Do you need a lot of **money** to get started?



Do you need a lot of **time** to make money?



How much money can you make?



Like Fiverr, there is no data available on how much you can earn using Foap. Because there isn't a large community (yet!) Foap isn't going to bring in consistent income, but if you're lucky it might allow you to splurge on a latte or two.

### How it works:

If you're insta-obsessed (guilty) you might be able to pull in a few dolla dolla bills from the pictures you post.

Foap is an app where you can upload original photos and customers can buy them from there. Like Fiverr, you're only making \$5, but if you were going to take the picture anyhow there's no harm in the extra few minutes it takes to upload to the app.

Besides selling your pictures for \$5, you can also enter 'missions' which are sponsored competitions searching for the best picture in a given category. These missions are more lucrative, oftentimes with cash prizes of several hundred dollars.

### How to get started

1. Download the app to your phone - available on iPhone and Android
2. Start uploading and categorizing your photos
3. Explore missions
4. Wait for purchases to roll in

# Earn money online with a blog

Do you need a lot of **money** to get started?



Bloggers can expect to make 1% of their average page views. If a blogger gets 50,000 views a month, they'll make around \$500.

## How it works:

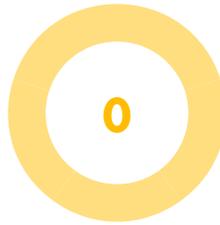
With so many six figure bloggers out there, you might be surprised to see this ranking so low. But in two and a half years of blogging I've learned a hard lesson: Blogging doesn't make you money. Influence makes you money. A following makes you money. Running a blog is a means to gain that influence and following, but at the end of the day, the blog itself is not what is going to make you money.

Bloggers earn money online through advertising, partnerships, selling their own products and affiliate income, all of which are means listed elsewhere on this list. Bloggers like Leandra Medine of Man Repeller earn over a million dollars a year blogging.

## Monetize your blog with advertising

On most blogs you might see a snazzy ad or two in the sidebar or within the posts. These aren't there to annoy you, rather they are raking in the dolla dolla bills for the

Do you need a lot of **time** to make money?



website owner. Well, kind of.

A lot of bloggers have a problem with sidebar advertisements because they really don't generate much income. Even with 50,000 monthly pageviews you will be lucky to pull in \$200.

## Monetize your blog with partnerships

Brand partnerships are one of the most popular options for bloggers who are just getting started with monetization. These partnerships are most popularly referred to as 'sponsored posts.'

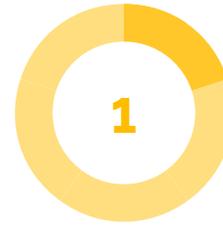
Bloggers charge anywhere from several hundred dollars up to several thousand per sponsored post.

## Monetize your blog by selling your own product

This is the most successful way to make money as a blogger. Many bloggers will focus on consistently putting out great content and building an audience for several months and then creating and selling their own product to that audience.

Bloggers like Melyssa Griffin

How much money can you make?



and Mariah Coz have sold six-figure courses on Teachable, harnessing the momentum they've built with their blogs.

While this money isn't truly made through their blog, most bloggers consider this 'blog income' because their blog audience served as customers.

I'll be going more into selling your own product a little further down the post.

## How to get started

1. Come up with your domain name and niche
2. Write a handful of posts before launch
3. Set up your blog and publish your posts
4. Establish a consistent posting schedule
5. Promote your blog on social media

## Earn money creating and selling ebooks

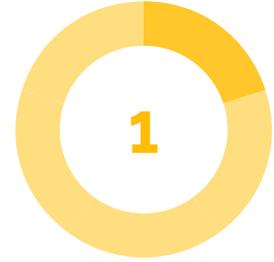
Do you need a lot of **money** to get started?



Do you need a lot of **time** to make money?



How much money can you make?



While half of self-published authors make less than \$500, we are going to put you in the more profitable half and say you'll be able to earn at least \$10k a year, or just over \$800 a month.

### How it works:

Ebooks definitely had their time in the sun and it seems like everyone and their brother (my brother included) is writing one despite the fact that they aren't the most profitable online medium anymore.

Ebooks take a lot of time, research and energy to write, whereas you can't sell them for very much. If your end goal is to be a published author then online self-publishing is a wonderful way to make that happen, but if you're hoping to be profitable, ebooks aren't always the best bet.

That's not to say that there are no successful ebook sellers because there definitely are, but in a saturated market of online authors it's hard to stand out.

### How to get started

1. Outline/write/edit/revise/perfect your ebook
2. Consider paying a professional to create a cover for your book
3. Choose a self-publishing platform
4. Upload your ebook to marketplaces or sell from your own website

# Earn money online with a course marketplace

Do you need a lot of **money** to get started?



Do you need a lot of **time** to make money?



How much money can you make?



A Udemy cofounder claimed that 25% of creators on Udemy make at least 10k a year, or \$833 a month.

## How it works:

If you've got a lot to teach but haven't established an audience (and have no desire to) then a course marketplace might be for you.

With a course marketplace, you create the online course and they take it from there. You have control of your content, but nothing else.

This lack of control has driven a lot of former marketplace users to course creation platforms like [Teachable](#).

Price caps, aggressive discounting, and a lack of access to client data are some of the major downsides of a course marketplace.

## How to get started

1. Create your online course content - this can be video, text, audio, downloadable assets, or anything else you come up with, the [Teachable Blog](#) has a ton of course creation tips
2. Upload your course to your marketplace of choice
3. Let the marketplace promote for you or go the extra mile and promote to your list and social media accounts

Want to know more about earning money with online courses? Check out [our webinar where we walk you through the 7 steps to a successful online course](#) AND offer a live Q&A at the end.

# Earn money online with affiliate marketing

Do you need a lot of **money** to get started?



Do you need a lot of **time** to make money?



How much money can you make?



There is no clear data on the average income you can make as an affiliate. Instead (very scientifically), I went to five blogs that share income reports and averaged their affiliate income to arrive at \$987 a month.

## How it works:

If there is a store or product that you love so much that you're constantly recommending it to your friends and family, you might want to consider becoming an affiliate.

People earn affiliate income by partnering with a brand or company and earning a commission of every sale that they drive. There are thousands of affiliate programs online - apparel stores, Amazon, tech companies and more.

Most people pull in a few hundred dollars a month with affiliate selling, though there are some outliers who have created entire businesses from it. If you join enough programs and are strategic in implementing them, you may be able to pull in \$80k in 5 years like [Hash Agrawal](#) did.

When looking into affiliate programs be careful to do research on how you're getting paid. A lot of programs pay you in gift cards or store credit - and while that's great - internet points don't pay the bills!

## How to get started

1. If you're looking to become an affiliate for your favorite company there are a few ways to find out if they have an affiliate program. Your first option is to Google "'company name' affiliate"
2. If that doesn't pan out, most companies that have affiliate programs will have them listed sneakily on the verrrrrry bottom of their website
3. Once you are accepted into an affiliate program figure out how you want to promote (blog posts, social media, business cards, etc)

# Earn money online with YouTube

Do you need a lot of **money** to get started?



Do you need a lot of **time** to make money?



How much money can you make?



The average YouTuber earns just \$15/month. But, let's say you're above average and have 100 videos each getting 5000 views a month you might earn up to \$1000.

## How it works:

Ah, YouTube stardom. Growing up watching iCarly on Nickelodeon and YouTubers like Fred I was sure that online video stardom would be my scapegoat from ever having to work an adult job.

Fast forward to now and I'm pulling in a humble \$5 a month through YouTube.

Ouch.

But that doesn't mean that there aren't other online personalities finding success on the platform. SocialBlade estimates that some YouTube stars like Miranda Sings are pulling in up to two million dollars a year.

Needless to say, she's an outlier, but with figures like that chasing YouTube stardom sounds pretty darn appealing.

For every YouTuber making a full-time living through YouTube, there are thousands of YouTubers chugging away making pennies a month. Those people might rise to YouTube stardom, but the rise tends to be a slow one.

A lot of YouTubers also monetize their success by branching out from YouTube. Angela Fehr, for example, is a talented watercolor artist on YouTube and has since created an online academy teaching watercolor on Teachable.

## How to get started

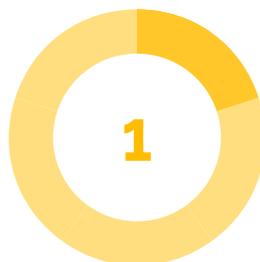
1. If you have a Google account you can set up a YouTube account with just a few clicks
2. Establish a niche for your channel - you can do comedy, music, tech tutorials or anything in between
3. Go into your settings and turn monetization on
4. Establish an upload schedule and be consistent
5. As your subscriber count grows consider reaching out to brands for paid collaborations

## Earn money as a search engine evaluator

Do you need a lot of **money** to get started?



Do you need a lot of **time** to make money?



How much money can you make?



It looks like the average pay for search engine evaluation is \$12/hour but the hours are unpredictable at best. You can expect to make \$1000 each month give or take.

### How it works:

With over three and a half billion daily Google searches it's fair to assume that a few bugs might pop up from time to time. To stay on top of these bugs, Google hires independent contractors to work as search engine evaluators.

Steve Gillman described being a search engine evaluator as a great learning experience - he makes several hundred dollars a month googling search terms and rating them on "quality, relevancy and usefulness."

### How to get started

1. Sign up with a site like [Leapforce](#)
2. Take the entrance exam (it's said to be easy)
3. You will have several hours of unpaid training before you can get started

## Earn money online selling domains

Do you need a lot of **money** to get started?



Do you need a lot of **time** to make money?



How much money can you make?



While there have been domains sold for millions of dollars, a more common price point is several hundred to a thousand dollars. Assuming someone can sell two domains a month we will estimate their monthly income at \$1000.

### How it works:

People don't always think of domain flipping as a reputable way of earning money online, but domain powerhouses like GoDaddy beg to differ.

The idea behind this is you buy a domain name that you think someone will want to use in the future. If you're lucky you'll be right and you'll get an offer from someone looking to own that domain sometime down the road.

You can also buy domain names similar to domains that are already popular and reach out to the owners of those sites and see if they're interested in buying.

Domain flipping is a long-term commitment and not something that you will see any sort of profit off of right off the bat.

### How to get started

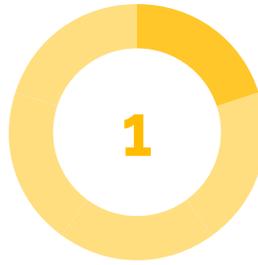
1. Decide a niche you want to focus on and start researching keywords
2. Buy domain names that fit in your niche
3. Research how much you can sell your domain for on Namebio
4. Wait for people to reach out or be proactive and reach out to potential buyers yourself

## Earn money podcasting

Do you need a lot of **money** to get started?



Do you need a lot of **time** to make money?



How much money can you make?



Again, statistics are hard to find. But School of Podcasting reports his numbers at around \$1600 and I've found that number to be consistent amongst mid-tier podcasters.

### How it works:

Not too long ago I had to explain what a podcast was to my grandma and as she so eloquently put it, "... so a podcast is talk radio for kids?"

And by kids, she means anyone under the age of 50.

She had basically the right idea - a podcast is an audio show that will feature at least one host and oftentimes high profile guests.

There are wildly popular podcasts covering virtually every niche possible. Like blogs, podcasts aren't profitable in themselves but once your audience grows you can monetize your following through ads which you can sell in fifteen second blocks.

### How to get started

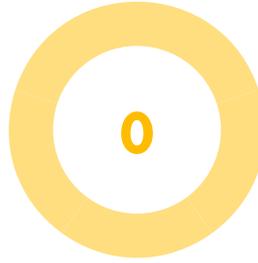
1. Figure out a podcasting setup and purchase any equipment you might need
2. Figure out a niche and posting schedule
3. Start recording podcasts
4. Reach out to guests to feature on your podcast

## Earn money as a virtual assistant

Do you need a lot of **money** to get started?



Do you need a lot of **time** to make money?



How much money can you make?



On average virtual assistants earn \$22,000 a year or just over \$1800 a month.

### How it works:

If you've been playing in the online business game for any amount of time you've probably heard the pros preaching outsourcing and delegating tasks to a virtual assistant time and time again.

Virtual assistants take care of any aspect of business that can be done virtually. This might mean scheduling tweets, designing blog graphics, managing an inbox, or researching for blog posts. Or something else entirely.

Really, the sky's the limit with what a virtual assistant can do.

### How to get started

1. Join Facebook groups geared towards virtual assistants
2. Decide which services you'll offer and research pricing
3. Set up a VA site or look on Facebook groups for people searching for virtual assistants

## Earn money as a brand ambassador

Do you need a lot of **money** to get started?



Do you need a lot of **time** to make money?



How much money can you make?



According to Simply Hired, the average brand ambassador will make \$24,000 a year or \$2,000 a month.

### How it works:

If you have a large blog or social media following you might be able to snag a deal as a brand ambassador. Brand ambassadors are usually given free product to model and show off on their platforms and an affiliate code to track sales.

A lot of brand ambassadorships also have perks and contests where you can win more free product, cash, or even trips.

There are some companies, though, that do accept applications on a rolling basis. For those you can search: “\*company name\* brand ambassadorship” and if they have a program you should be able to apply from there.

**\*Note:** A lot of affiliate programs tend to advertise themselves as an ambassadorship, but in a true ambassadorship you’ll be provided free product to promote.

### How to get started

1. Find companies that are taking ambassadors and start engaging with them on social media
2. See if your ideal companies accept applications and apply

Many companies handpick their ambassadors rather than using open applications - this is why it's important to get on their radar with step one

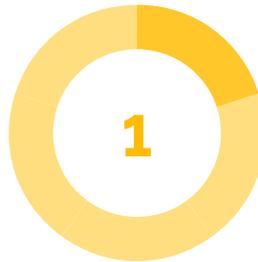
3. Go into your settings and turn monetization on

## Earn money crowdfunding

Do you need a lot of **money** to get started?



Do you need a lot of **time** to make money?



How much money can you make?



According to Fundable, the average successful campaign will last 9 weeks and bring in around \$7,000. Break that down and you're making about \$3,500/month (though you probably won't be running back to back campaigns every other month).

### How it works:

So this option is a bit different - people tend to use crowdfunding for one of two reasons:

1. To raise money for a good cause
2. To fund a project

So if your "project" is quitting your job and relaxing - you might not have much luck. But if you're crowdfunding to quit your job and work on creating technology that will benefit your investors you might have a better chance of success.

Yancey Strickler, the founder of Kickstarter, advises "Most ideas in the world are funded because they have the ability to make someone else money."

With that in mind present your crowdfunding idea in that light. Rather than say, "I'm making this product that does x, y and z." say, "I'm making this product that does x, y and z to make life easier for you."

People are benefit driven so you need to show them what they will get from funding you.

### How to get started

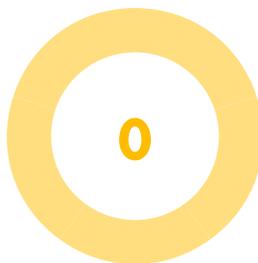
1. Come up with your crowdfunding idea
2. Choose a crowdfunding platform (IndieGoGo, Crowdrise, Go Fund Me, etc.)
3. Get your page set up with benefit driven language
4. Start promoting on social media

## Earn money freelance writing

Do you need a lot of **money** to get started?



Do you need a lot of **time** to make money?



How much money can you make?



The average freelancer makes \$42,000 a year, or \$3500 a month.

### How it works:

If you have a way with words and a wallet crying out for some extra cash you might want to consider becoming a freelance writer.

Freelancing is a great way to use your talents to earn money online. We recently interviewed [Aja Frost](#), she's a 21 year old who paid for school through freelancing, and she is just one of many freelancers making a full-time income.

There are a lot of ways you can get started freelancing - whether you reach out to publications directly or build a portfolio and wait for customers to come to you.

Either way, the more proactive you are the more successful you might be.

Sites like [Freelance to Freedom](#) offer great advice and community for freelancers.

### How to get started

1. Build a portfolio of sample writing to showcase your work
2. Submit to sites to get your name out there
3. Consider setting up a website to act as a landing page

## Earn money with an online store

Do you need a lot of **money** to get started?



Do you need a lot of **time** to make money?



How much money can you make?



According to Slate the average income of profitable Etsy sellers is \$44,900 which comes out to be a bit over \$3700 a month.

### How it works:

Real talk: Etsy is my favorite website ever. I find myself spending hours browsing and oftentimes spending more than I budgeted for on decor that I really didn't need.

What I'm trying to say is that Etsy shops have a way of turning frugal twenty-year-olds into buying fiends and that is something you should take advantage of. There are listings for anything you can imagine on Etsy - from apparel and accessories to groomsmen gifts and voodoo dolls.

Everything.

So if you're particularly crafty or have an awesome digital product worth selling then hop on the Etsy train, y'all!

And if Etsy's not your speed Shopify is another solid option.

Unlike Etsy, Shopify isn't a marketplace. What this means is you are in total control. You set up your store, customize it, organize it and advertise it.

Shopify is a great platform for earning money online if you have a vision and need complete control to execute it, while if you're just looking to set up a sales page and not worry about it again - you might be better off on Etsy.

### How to get started

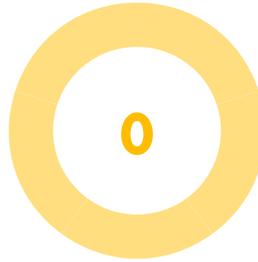
1. Decide what it is that you're going to sell - this can be a physical or digital product
2. Choose a selling platform based on your needs
3. Upload your products/ services and set a price
4. Advertise your page on a blog or social media sites

## Earn money as a freelance designer

Do you need a lot of **money** to get started?



Do you need a lot of **time** to make money?



How much money can you make?



The average income for freelance designers is \$60,000 a year or \$5,000 a month.

### How it works:

Just like with freelance writing, you can also become a freelance designer. The process is largely the same - build a portfolio, gain testimonials and the money should start rolling in.

What you will be designing can range from web pages to infographics to Pinterest images and anything else imaginable.

You can niche down and specifically be an infographic freelancer, or you can keep your horizons broad - that's the beauty of working for yourself.

### How to get started

1. Build a portfolio showcasing your work
2. Advertise your services on social media
3. Set up a website to act as a landing page

# Earn money selling online courses

Do you need a lot of **money** to get started?



Do you need a lot of **time** to make money?



How much money can you make?



Our average active instructor earns \$5,426 per month with each online course making courses the most profitable means of earning money online. Some of our instructors have even built 7-figure businesses entirely with online courses.

## How it works:

It's no surprise online courses are the next big thing when it comes to working from home by making money online. Here's the deal. The EdTech industry is booming. Valued as a 107 billion dollar industry (according to Forbes), the early-adopters are looking at courses and thinking: I. want. that.

It's why our customers, who are just normal people, have made upwards of six figures in just a month while launching their courses. It's why the best content marketers (like Seth Godin, Marie Forleo, Noah Kagan) are selling courses. It's why there was \$2.51 billion invested in educational-technology companies during the first half of 2015 (according to InsideHigherEd).

So I know we've already covered this, but selling online courses is the best way to make money online. I can sing praises for online courses for as long as you're willing to listen, but for now, I'll just say this:

Online courses are a great way to earn money online because they allow you to monetize your skills, you create a course once and can sell it for years and they establish you as an authority and it's a lot easier than you think!

## How to get started

1. Sign up for your Teachable account
2. Come up with your profitable course idea
3. Start creating your online course
4. Promote your course launch

We have entire [blog posts on creating your online course](#), and many more detailing everything you need to know to be successful on the Teachable Blog. You can also join our webinar to learn the [7 steps to launch a profitable online course](#).

## Conclusion

Courses are a great way to monetize your knowledge or presence online, they take little money to set up, and even though you might need some time to create the content, you will only need to do that once for each course you create.

Plus, many of the above options can be converted to online courses. For example:

- Instead of writing an educational ebook you can create an online course on the same topic
- Harness the momentum you've gained on YouTube and create a course to sell related to your niche
- Create a course on automating the systems that somebody might otherwise hire a VA to do
- Or create a course on how to be successful using any of the above monetization tactics

If you're ready to get started, just click on the button below to create your first course for free on Teachable.

[Create my course](#)