

## **Top Five Ideal Jobs Working From Home and How to Find Them**

There is an interesting shift in America happening; more companies open to the idea of telecommuting. But many people no longer want to be held back by the inherent boundaries of Corporate America given to all but an exclusive few; they want to take their career into their own hands and start their own business – with a unique twist – working from home.

More Americans are starting home online businesses than ever before. It's easy to understand why; technology is making it easier & efficient, gas prices are high, and families are finding it difficult to survive without two incomes leaving the 'stay at home parent' needing to work while raising the kids.

### **Here are some fascinating statistics about various jobs in the United States:**

- The United States had an estimated 5.5 million stay at home parents last year – according to the US Census Bureau.
- A full 15% of workers work from their homes, exceeding 20 million nationwide!
- There are about 3.5 million students taking online courses; year over year increases of 10 percent or more.
- There are about 2.1 million bookkeepers in the United States according to the Census Bureau
- Nearly 75% of people in the US have internet access at home

### **So how does one get started with their own online home-based business?**

Figure out your passions. What do you enjoy doing? What do you dread? Do you like handling the family finances but hate shopping? Do you enjoy uploading photos online but hate cleaning house? Figuring out what you like and dislike will help you identify your strengths and areas to potentially work.

### **After you figure out your passions, tie them to work. Here are some examples:**

- I like shopping = consider opening an eBay Store
- I like designing and being creative/drawing = opportunities exist in web development for small businesses and individual proprietors
- I like teaching others = maybe a job teaching online is for you
- I enjoy handling finances = lots of opportunities exist for bookkeepers for small business owners
- I enjoy handling business and multitasking = consider becoming a personal assistant for a busy professional

### **These five examples are my top five ideas for online home-based businesses:**

1. Sell on eBay! People who love to shop may find this an exciting option. Hitting high-end retail outlets or wholesalers online are great ways to get inventory. Two stores I particularly enjoy for great deals on high quality, designer merchandise that is authentic (a big key!) is the Neiman Marcus Last Call Outlet and the Off-Fifth Saks Fifth Avenue Outlet store. Do you enjoy and know a lot about particular collectibles? Thimbles? Coins? Consider setting up your shop around your interests and hobbies and make money too.

2. Online Bookkeeping – Enjoy managing the household finances? You can advertise your services on Craig's List or even the local paper! Provide services for small businesses or busy professionals – pay their bills, invoice their clients, and handle their collectibles or more. You can decide what you are willing to take care of and then advertise accordingly. What you charge will vary based on what you agree to do and how many hours you work, but between \$100 and \$500 per week is reasonable. Be sure you check with local and state laws about setting up a business. Software you might want to consider includes Intuit Quickbooks, Quicken or it can be as simple as Microsoft Excel.

3. Personal Assistant – Do you like multitasking and want to get out of the house a bit? Do you run errands anyway and don't mind adding a few more to your list? Are you a good communicator? Personal assistants are becoming more common for busy professionals. Handling everything from picking up dry cleaning to booking travel or returning calls on your clients' behalf, personal assistants can be a lifesaver to professionals and small businesses. Set your own hours and advertise online. Pay rates range from the minimum wage to \$20 or more per hour for those more experienced and more educated. Best yet? You choose your hours and your clients. Be up front with your boundaries – not willing to work past 6? Be sure to tell your clients.

4. Web Design – Are you the creative type with good grammatical skills? It's not as difficult as it sounds to design web pages. Beginners can start with something as simple as Microsoft Word, saving as an HTML file. Your client will provide you with the server to upload files to. A few tutorials in Word or online will help you get started quickly. Do you want to use a graphical template? Consider sites like [templatemonster.com](http://templatemonster.com). Some companies will want e-commerce and more advanced sites that will take you some time to learn, but many just want a web presence with contact information that you can learn to do in a few hours. Again advertising your services on Craig's List or in local newspapers or even on monster.

5. Teaching Online – My personal favorite (it is my full time profession), there are lots of opportunities for teachers online. If you have a teaching credential there are many online high schools you can search for that you can work for. Do you have a bachelor's, masters or even a doctoral degree? Online universities can either supplement your income or even be your full time job! Take a look at my co-authored book *Make Money Teaching Online* at [www.drdaniellebabb.com](http://www.drdaniellebabb.com) and join our online group at [www.teachonlinebook.com](http://www.teachonlinebook.com)!

### **Pitfalls to Watch Out For!**

As with any job, it has potential pitfalls to watch out for. Consider these potential issues or concerns:

1. Be sure your clients communication style matches your own. Do you prefer email? Find clients that do, too. Text messaging? Phone? Communicate that to the client.
2. Take the time to screen clients. You will want to find clients that are as demanding as you're willing to allow. Set boundaries; and stick to them.
3. Don't take on clients that want you to modify your personality type or need for flexibility. Ultimately this won't be a good fit.
4. Decide how much time you need to stay at home versus how much time you can be out and about. Make your clients aware of this. Some businesses, like being a notary, will take you out of the house more often than you might like.

Set communication boundaries, time boundaries, etc and then enjoy!

Want some additional excellent advice? Check out [www.ratracerebellion.com](http://www.ratracerebellion.com)!