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Is an Online Job Right for You?

Danielle Babb | May 02, 2008

With the rising costs of everything from gasoline to food, stay-at-home spouses and parents often want a side job – a little extra income to help them comfortably make ends meet.

So you have interest in an online job, and don't know how to get started. Here are some simple tips for figuring out what you may enjoy and how to start up your own online business.

The key is to find your passions. Ask yourself these questions:

1. When I go through my day, what do I dread? (Stay away from these as business ideas.)
2. When I go through my day, what do I enjoy? (Write them down.)
3. What would I do if I had two hours to spare? How would I spend it?
4. What limitations do I have right now on my time?
5. What do I do to unwind?
6. What do people come to me for to get my expertise? Is it because I enjoy it so much that I know a lot about it? Or is it from experience I had no choice but to discover (like a health condition?)

Now let's take each one and I'll provide an example:

1. **When I go through my day, what do I dread?** If you hate grocery shopping and picking up the dry cleaning, you won't want a business as a personal assistant. If you hate managing money, you

ABOUT DANIELLE BABB



**Danielle Babb, PhD, MBA --
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Dr. Danielle Babb (Dr. Dani) is an enthusiastic professor, speaker, consultant and author helping people achieve their passions and dreams through their work. She has devoted her career and life to engaging with people to make personal goals a reality.

Dr. Dani is passionate about educating consumers on the economy, how to make money in real estate, how to make a living working from home, and how to have the life they want and deserve. Coming from very modest roots, she strongly believes in education as the foundation to every goal and dream we have becoming the life we live each day.

Dr. Dani is a faculty member for online and on-ground universities teaching economics, technology, statistics, business, management, and real estate. She is the author of: *Commissions at Risk*, *Finding Foreclosures*, *Real Estate v2.0*, *Make Money Teaching Online* and, coming soon, *the Accidental Landlord*. She teaches courses at all levels in education from associates to doctoral work.

Dr. Dani is the go-to expert for many news channels and networks on cable and local television. She analyzes the real estate and economic climates, the impact of politics on the

won't want to be a bookkeeper. Knowing what you don't like is perhaps more important than knowing what you do.

2. **When I go through my day, what do I enjoy?** Do you love the 1 hour you get at the coffee shop catching up with friends? Do you love taking the dogs or kids for a walk? Do you love to shop? Why not set up interest groups for busy professionals? Be a dog walker, or take children to the park? Schedule online and advertise on the Web. Consider becoming a professional e-bay'er – selling something you love – designer clothes, thimbles, you name it.
3. **What would I do if I had two hours to spare?** How would I spend it?
Identifying what you'd do if you had the opportunity is great insight. Would you hit the gym? Why not create personal training plans for people online and monitor their progress through your site, offering advice and encouragement? Would you spend it at the mall? Create a store that rents out high-end clothing.
4. **What limitations do I have right now on my time?** Knowing what you don't like is important, but so is knowing your true limitations. If your children are very young and you really need to work inside the home, you won't want to be a personal assistant that has to run errands or a shopper for your eBay store. If you know you need to get out of the house because you haven't had a reason to do your hair or shave that beard in a week, perhaps it's time to find a job that gets you out of the house.
5. **What do I do to unwind?** If you enjoy something enough, you might even find it relaxing. Better yet, you might be able to help others enjoy it, too. Are you a connoisseur of fine bath salts you find help you relax at night? What about a store that sells the salts – and provides expertise and forums for people to share their ideas and favorites?
6. **What do people come to me for to get my expertise?** Is it because I enjoy it so much that I know a lot about it? Or is it from experience I had no choice but to discover (like a health condition?) This is a great springboard onto something new. Do people come to you for medical advice about fibromyalgia? Why not start a paid help site with the latest in research and forums for people to share information? Do they come to you for your knowledge about computers and the latest gadgets? Why not offer a review site that just happens to sell products too and allows others to share their experiences?

Here are some other ways to equate your passions and interests with work:

- I like shopping = consider opening an eBay Store

wallets of individuals, and how to earn money from home. She is regularly seen on Fox [Business Network](#), Fox News, MSNBC, CNN, CNN Headline News, CBS, NBC and has appeared on the Today Show.

She is also the founder of Teach Online Training Center, a center to help teachers learn to teach online high school or universities, at www.teachonlinetraining.com

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- 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
- I am a real estate agent in my day job and need some work for nighttime = consider being a property manager or landlord.

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No matter what you decide and find your passion to be, a job will suit you. In later articles I'll help you align jobs with your goals, personality and interests. Sometimes though the best ideas come from the heart.

Sound Off...What do you think? [Join the discussion.](#)

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