



# MAKE MONEY ONLINE

## A BEGINNER'S GUIDE

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# Introduction



Welcome to my BEGINNERS GUIDE TO MAKING MONEY ONLINE.

One of the most important skills you can master to ensure a secure future for you and your family is the ability to make money online as and when you want.

With this skill mastered, you'll obtain a level of "job security" you'll never experience from working for a "traditional" company in a "traditional" job role. At first that might seem counterintuitive, weren't we always taught to work hard, go from high school to college and get a steady job with a predictable salary?

That my friend is the old way, welcome to a brave new world!

**It's real, it's attainable and the opportunity is now!**

I'm going to show you some proof of my income, so you can see I'm not only talking the talk but also walking the walk. I'm not doing this to show off or brag, not at all, I just want to firmly focus your mind on what's achievable if you take this seriously, work hard, and apply yourself.

Now, don't think you'll make this kind of income overnight – you probably won't.

CAN you make this kind of income? Well, I did, so it's not unreasonable to say that if I did it, so can you – right?

The following screen shot is of \$18,268 earnings over a period of 5 weeks and 2 days.

The screenshot shows the Payoneer user interface. At the top left is the Payoneer logo. To the right, there is a language selection dropdown set to 'English'. Below the logo is a navigation bar with links for Home, Activity, Receive, Pay, Withdraw, Help, Settings, and Sign Out. The main content area displays a greeting 'Good morning Leslie Blythe' and user information like 'Local Time: 05:45' and 'Last Visit: 01/10/2020 13:30 EST'. A notification banner reads 'Payment request sent'. Below this is a section titled 'Payment Requests Sent' with filters for date range (15 Oct 2019 - 13 Jan 2020) and status. A table lists five payment requests, all with a status of 'Payment deposited'. The amounts are 1,700.00 USD, 1,700.00 USD, 1,700.00 USD, 1,700.00 USD, and 2,380.00 USD. At the bottom, a summary bar shows a total of 9,088.20 USD for a completed payment to 'LES BLYTHE' on 24 Feb 2020.

Sent To	Amount	Due By	Status
[REDACTED]	1,700.00 USD	8 Dec 2019	Payment deposited
[REDACTED]	1,700.00 USD	1 Dec 2019	Payment deposited
[REDACTED]	1,700.00 USD	24 Nov 2019	Payment deposited
[REDACTED]	1,700.00 USD	17 Nov 2019	Payment deposited
[REDACTED]	2,380.00 USD	4 Nov 2019	Payment deposited

24 Feb 2020 [REDACTED] (LES BLYTHE) 9,088.20 USD USD XXXX-1014 Completed

## Be prepared to learn – a lot!

Even though I've been able to earn this kind of income, I **still** learn something new every day, that's what makes working for yourself online fun and interesting. I dare say the same will apply to you on your own journey.

Enjoy the ride!

You can connect with me via the [FreelanceYourFuture.com](https://FreelanceYourFuture.com) website [HERE](#) or email me at:

[les@freelanceyourfuture.com](mailto:les@freelanceyourfuture.com)

Best regards,



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# 10 Ways to make money online

I make money online in a few ways right now – I’m a Freelance Writer, I promote other people’s products for a commission (affiliate marketing), I have a [YouTube Channel](#), [a website/blog](#) and I’ve written an [eBook](#).

There are many ways you can make an income online with just your laptop and an internet connection. You must make a start somewhere and deciding where to start can often be the hardest part.

In A BEGINNERS GUIDE TO MAKING MONEY ONLINE I’m going to help you think more in detail about what might suit you as a starting point.

I’m going to give you 10 solid ideas that work – most of which I’m either using right now or have tried in the past.

## **I want this guide to be different**

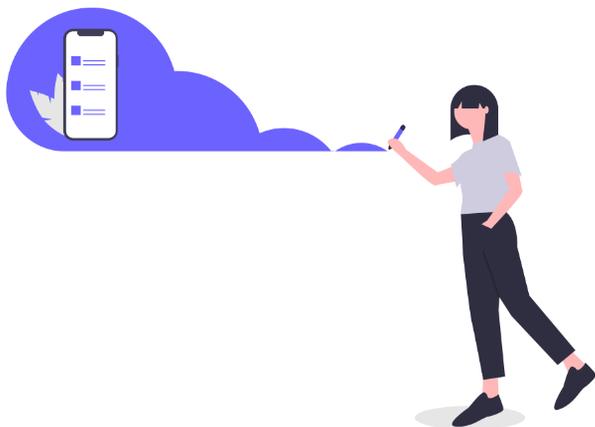
It’s easy for anyone to list make money online “ideas”, you see it all the time.

What’s different about A BEGINNERS GUIDE TO MAKING MONEY ONLINE is I’m going to score each method and give you my honest opinion of each, mainly based on my personal experience of actually doing it!

**And you won’t often see that.**

Okay, let’s waste no more time, let’s get stuck in...

# 1. Become a Freelance Writer



A lot of writers try to be generalists, writing for a wide range of categories, from food to tech. However, having a niche focus as a writer allows you to write better content.

When you have experience in the niche, you can add a different perspective to a piece of content. That means you're not just saying the same thing as every other article online.

If someone asks for a marketing writing sample, send them marketing writing samples. Don't send a finance article. Or a fitness one. It's hard for a potential client to know how well you understand a niche if they can't see a relevant writing sample.

Apply to opportunities best suited to your skills and experience. Also, if your pitch doesn't have a list of links to writing samples, it's going to get ignored.

To make money online as a Freelance Writer, you need to start by building out a strong portfolio.

That may mean doing some free work with some reputable mid-tier brands to start. Once you gain a strong portfolio, you can start reaching out to potential big clients to earn more money online.

Remember, freelancing is a numbers game: the more personalized emails and applications you fill out, the more likely you will get a response back.

## MY TAKE ON FREELANCE WRITING 10/10

Unsurprisingly, I've scored freelance writing at the maximum 10 out of 10.

I've made good money freelance writing since 2011 and have built myself up to a rate of \$125 an hour (not even close to the highest rate in the marketplace).

My reputation is out there, and just this week I was approached by Microsoft to write a 650-word web page for which I quoted \$650. I got the gig!

If you're prepared to put in the work, build your portfolio and your reputation, freelance writing can be very lucrative indeed.

The earnings example of \$18,268 I gave in the introduction was from a freelance writing client.

## 2. Make Money with Affiliate Marketing

MY TAKE ON  
AFFILIATE  
MARKETING  
9/10

I personally use affiliate marketing to make money online and the affiliate commissions you receive can vary widely.

I tend to steer people away from Amazon because the commissions are generally low at just a few %. That said, on a big item it can be a few dollars.

Digital products are a good way to go as commissions are quite high, usually in the 40 – 60% range and sometimes even more.

Consider it takes the same effort to promote a \$7 product as a \$1,000 product and you might want to set your sights on higher value products.

The most I've made on a single affiliate sale is \$750 – 50% of a \$1,500 product.



Affiliate marketing is one of the most popular ways to make money online. Throughout the years, its popularity has gone up and down, but it continues to prove to be a stable way to make money online.

The best part about affiliate marketing is that you can be an affiliate for nearly any company, from Shopify to Amazon to Uber to FabFitFun.

Affiliate marketing allows you to earn a living by promoting other brands. If you're a savvy marketer, you can earn a commission from sales by promoting retail products, software, apps, and more.

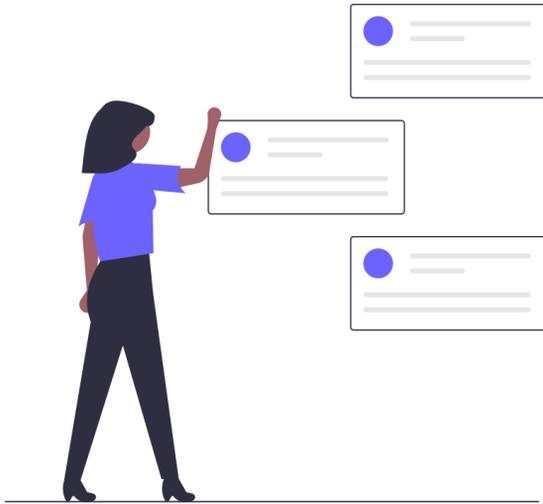
While earning a commission may seem small, keep in mind that you can be an affiliate for several brands and include several affiliate links in a single blog post.

If you really want to make money online doing affiliate marketing, your best bet is to focus on content marketing. By building out a blog (see method #4) with several pages of high-quality content, you essentially create an asset you can call your own.

The best part about focusing on content marketing is that if an affiliate program shuts down, you can switch the affiliate link to a competitor without negatively impacting your income.

To get started, all you need is a reputable affiliate program, and your affiliate referral links.

### 3. Start a YouTube Channel



If others can make money from YouTube, so can you.

One of the highest-paid YouTubers is 7-year-old Ryan, who reviews toys on his YouTube channel, which made him \$22 million in one year!

Your YouTube channel should focus on a single niche so you can build a strong, loyal audience.

For example, you could create makeup tutorials, stream video games, review products, teach skills, create prank videos, or anything else you think there'd be an audience for.

The secret to making money on YouTube is to create content people want that either educates or entertains.

You can use a headline that's witty to entice people to watch, and you can use keywords that are optimized for YouTube search.

Once you've reached the 1,000-subscriber milestone, you can officially monetize your channel with YouTube ads.

With that said, using YouTube to sell affiliate products (like I do) can be way more profitable. This is where I got started with my own channel:

[YouTube Channel](#)

[YouTube Course](#)

MY TAKE ON  
STARTING A  
YOUTUBE CHANNEL  
10/10

I have a monetized YouTube channel showing people how to earn an extra income online – Earn an Extra Income with FYF101.

It takes work to build up, but if you're prepared to put in the time and effort you can make a serious income.

I also like that eventually it becomes a "hands off" cash machine that you just prime with a video or 2 every week.

The biggest fear for most people is going on camera. I do this but **YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE ON CAMERA**, in fact for many products it's not recommended at all!

See the link opposite to discover the course I took to kick off my YouTube business.

## 4. Start a Blog



Blogging is one of the oldest and best methods for making money online. People who love writing tend to start blogs with a niche focus. For example, a blog about procrastination, cars, dropshipping, toys, etc., is often a narrow enough focus so you can build a loyal following, but big enough that you can cover a lot of ground.

You can start a blog on various platforms, but I recommend WordPress which I use for my blog and other websites. When you start your blog, use very specific keywords with a tight focus and continue to expand into other relevant categories as you grow and dominate new spaces. This will allow you to build a massive blog over time. Remember that design is also important for making a good first impression on visitors.

There are several ways to make money blogging. You can add affiliate links in your posts (don't forget a disclaimer). You can monetize with AdSense by placing ads strategically on your website. Sponsored posts can help you make money from specific brands – this is popular among review bloggers. You can also use it to build authority so that you can eventually get speaking gigs, television deals, or big contracts from clients.

If blogging interests you, why not check out my book

[“BLOG YOUR WAY FROM NOVICE TO WELL-PAID FREELANCER”](#)

MY TAKE ON  
STARTING A BLOG  
9/10

Blogging remains an effective method for making money online despite the rise in popularity of video (YouTube).

Bear in mind that a blog is a long-term commitment but, once you're established, income can become relatively passive.

If you target a specific keyword, it may take 6 or 8 months to gain traction with Google, so be prepared to play the long game.

If you enjoy writing, go for it!

Longer term, you might consider running a blog in conjunction with a YouTube channel. This helps you firmly establish yourself as an expert in your chosen field and is the route that I personally follow.

## 5. Publish an eBook

### MY TAKE ON PUBLISHING AN EBOOK 6/10

While you can make money from eBooks, you need to be aware that writing and publishing the book itself is only the start.

Once your eBook is done, the hard work of promotion starts.

If you enjoy writing and want to get your thoughts out there, writing eBooks can be a satisfying route to go.

But please be aware that it's unlikely (but not impossible) to make a job-replacing income with eBooks.

Personally, when I was writing eBooks, the most I made was a few hundred dollars a month, and the amount of time I had to put into promoting my books wasn't worth it for me. I only give eBooks 6/10 for this reason.



With Amazon KDP, it's never been easier to publish an eBook. All you need to do is write the eBook, format it, create an eBook cover, publish, and promote it. Back in 2013, I created several eBooks on Amazon (took all but one down), and even though it didn't make me rich, I still make some money from it.

You can choose to hire a writer for your eBook, a graphic designer to design the cover, or a freelancer to format the eBook for you to help minimize the work you need to put into it. It's best if you focus on keywords based on popular searches on Amazon. I often use a Keyword Tool, which allows you to find the words people use while searching so you can craft your title around it.

To make money online selling eBooks, you can market it in a number of ways. You can give away your eBook for free for a few days. This helps you rank high in search results for some time and get some reviews, which helps you rank better for paid listings.

## 6. Create an Online Course



Sharing knowledge is one of the best ways to make money online. If you're an expert on a subject, you can monetize your knowledge by creating online courses. You can sell your course on Udemy or, if you already have your own audience, on your own website.

Some entrepreneurs earn as much as \$5,000 - \$10,000 per month with online courses.

To create a popular and successful course, your best bet is to watch other courses on your topic. Then, look at the reviews. What are the aspects that people praise, and what are the things people hate? How can you create something better than what's already been created? Focus on creating content that solves the biggest complaints while emulating the positive aspects people rave about.

The platform you sell your course on will determine how to best make money. If you sell your course on Udemy, you don't have to do much to promote it. You can almost set it and forget it. But do take a close look at Udemy before you decide to use it. They often heavily discount your course when they promote it, and you are giving up a lot of control if you use the platform.

Maybe promote your course to some blogs or on your own website. However, if the course is hosted on your own website, you might want to run ads to promote the course. You can also build an email list so you can continue to promote future courses to the same audience.

### MY TAKE ON CREATING AN ONLINE COURSE 10/10

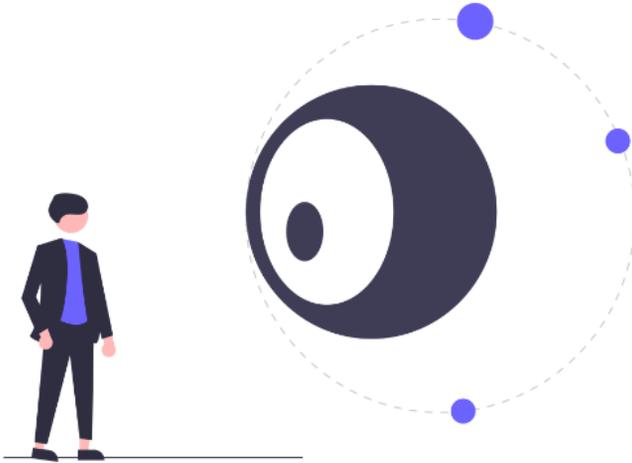
I give creating an online course 10/10 because online learning is booming and if you have knowledge to share you might consider capitalizing on the trend.

Creating an online course is firmly on my agenda for this year as I'm often asked if I have my own course when promoting other courses for an affiliate commission.

By the way, never promote any product you haven't used yourself or firmly believe in.

If you're interested in courses I've taken and recommend, go over to my website at [freelanceyourfuture.com](https://freelanceyourfuture.com) for more information and reviews (linked at the bottom of this page).

## 7. Dropshipping



In case you don't know what dropshipping is, dropshipping is a business model where you sell a product to a customer, but the supplier stores, packages, and ships the product to your customers on your behalf.

Bear in mind that with dropshipping you must choose solid, reliable products that work as advertised, otherwise you'll run into issues with returns, unhappy customers and, potentially, bad reviews.

Compare and contrast dropshipping to affiliate marketing where you simply get a commission for promoting someone else's product and they pick up any hassles with customer support, and you might want to go that route if you're just getting started making money online.

The best way to make money online dropshipping? Most entrepreneurs have been focusing on a few marketing strategies: running Facebook ads, having influencers promote your products, and sending Direct Messages (DMs) to potential customers on social media.

### MY TAKE ON DROP SHIPPING 5/10

I tried out dropshipping and was relatively unsuccessful.

My promotion strategy involved using Facebook ads, but I soon realized that to get a return on my investment I had to spend thousands of dollars which was way more than I was prepared to risk!

I mark dropshipping low as I don't think it's a good way to make money online for beginners.

Rather get started with freelance writing or affiliate marketing where your exposure to potential loss is much less and you won't have to learn very expensive lessons from your mistakes when you're just starting out!

## 8. Print on Demand

### MY TAKE ON PRINT ON DEMAND 4/10

When I went into print on demand, I found it similar to writing an eBook and launching it through KDP (Kindle Direct Publishing).

I also used Amazon's platform for my print on demand products but was making so little per item there was no way it would sustain me as a full-time income.

There was money to be made early on with print on demand, but I think that horse has now run, and the competition is fierce.

People are so used to seeing t-shirts with clever slogans on that there is no longer the uptake for that kind of product that there used to be.



Print on demand is proving to be a popular option but it's really difficult to make a decent return on your investment of time and effort. Graphic designers are turning to the business model to sell their designs on clothing and other products to monetize their art better. With their unique designs, they can create a consistent and established brand for their business.

Print on demand is similar to dropshipping in the sense that you don't need to carry inventory or ship out products to customers yourself.

There are two slight differences, though. First, you can add branded labels on packages. Second, shipping costs are excessive, making it difficult to create a sustainable business unless you charge higher prices or sell higher quantities.

The best way to make money with your print on demand business? Free marketing channels. Your best bet would be to promote your products for free on Instagram, Pinterest, or with Instagram influencers who convert their audiences well.

## 9. Sell Domains



If you regularly buy domain names but fail to use them, you can always try to sell them for a profit. Selling domains is ultra-competitive, though.

If you own a one word .com domain, you'll have a better chance of selling. Words that have high search volume sell well too.

Also, domains that are on trend at that moment have a better chance of selling. For example, at one time, fidget spinner domains were an easier sell than they are now.

You can sell your domains on GoDaddy's Domain Auction. Look through the domains with the highest bids to see what type of domains sell well. It'll help you know whether or not your domains are worth selling and how much money you can make by selling them.

### MY TAKE ON SELLING DOMAINS ?/10

I think selling domains has potential although it's not something I've personally tried (yet).

If you're anything like me and enjoy playing with words, you'll likely find the research process interesting.

It's becoming harder and harder to find a one word .com domain and even putting together a decent two-word domain is a challenge.

But, for me, that's half the fun of it and making money from doing something you enjoy is never a bad thing.

So, selling domains could be an interesting side hustle in addition to your other online income sources.

Talking of side hustles, see #10 on the next page...

## 10. Create Side Gigs



Side gigs can help you make money online while you keep your full-time job. If you're looking to make an extra couple of hundred dollars per month, this is a great idea. The work doesn't always last long-term, but it can.

Use platforms like Fiverr to create gigs. When you're new to Fiverr, you'll want to focus on offering a low price so you can get your first review. I'd recommend getting a friend to buy your gig to leave your first review so you can get started faster. Treat the friend like a client and actually deliver a finished product that you can feature on the platform on your portfolio.

The thing with Fiverr is that it's also a numbers game. If you look at top Fiverr users, you'll see that they have multiple gigs available. The more gigs you have, the more likely you are to be found.

If you don't want to get paid Fiverr prices (although you can charge much more than \$5 now) you can turn to platforms like FlexJobs to find side gigs. Under their jobs section, you can search for contract or telecommute opportunities. The great thing about the telecommute opportunities on FlexJobs is that you can apply for them in any city in the world.

FlexJobs has a variety of side gigs from writing, business, design, accounting, and more. So, if your talents don't match up with anything else on this list of money-making ideas, you might want to try a side gig from FlexJobs and start making money online. Apply to multiple opportunities to land a few small side gigs.

### MY TAKE ON CREATING SIDE GIGS 6/10

Potentially a good way to make a few extra bucks while you get established, but not a good strategy for the long term.

The exception to this would be something that's dead easy and quick to do and you can get multiple orders to make it worthwhile.

An example of this might be delivering a report where you simply point your customer to a download link. It's a good idea to give an unannounced free bonus if you try this out.

Also, if you can subcontract the work and get someone else to do it for a lesser price (arbitrage) then side gigs can make money.

## Conclusion



Making money online can help you earn some extra side hustle money, but it can also help you escape your 9 to 5 job so you can become a full-time entrepreneur.

By making more money, you gain more financial freedom, improve your financial security, and inch closer to living life on your terms. It really is possible to earn a living online if you work hard and stick with it. So, which method will you try out first?

I've tried every method in this guide apart from buying and selling domains. Just because some didn't work for me doesn't mean they won't work for you – we are all different.

However, I've given you my honest opinion based on my personal experience of actually trying these different ways of making money online. I hope my experiences help you make smarter choices as you set off on your online journey.

Whatever you choose, stick with one thing at a time and give it a reasonable chance to be successful, remember FOCUS and you won't go far wrong.

F-ollow O-ne C-ourse U-ntil S-uccessful

Finally, go to my website [HERE](#) where many of these opportunities are covered in much more detail.

Best of luck in all your endeavors!