

**A Step-by-Step Guide to Unlocking Your Potential
and Achieving Financial Freedom**

THE ULTIMATE SURVIVAL GIG

**How to Create Your Dream Life and
Income from Anywhere**

THERONLAFOUNTAIN.COM

For Dreamers, Ready to Become Doers

THE ULTIMATE SURVIVAL GIG

How to create Your Dream Life and Income from Anywhere

FIRST EDITION

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PART 1

Laying the Foundation

INTRODUCTION



Welcome to "The Ultimate Survival Gig: How to Create Your Dream Life and Income from Anywhere." If you're reading this, chances are you've been searching for a way to break free from the traditional 9-to-5 grind and create a life that allows you to pursue your passions while still making a decent living. Whether you're a stay-at-home parent, a college student, or someone who simply craves more freedom and flexibility, this book is for you.

About the Author: Before we dive in, let me tell you a little bit about myself and why I wrote this book. My name is Theron, and just a few years ago, I found myself in a position that may sound familiar to you. I had recently sold my restaurant, and while I knew I needed to make money, I wasn't sure how I was going to do it. I had some consulting clients, but they were behind on payments, and the people who bought my restaurant were also falling behind. I was stressed, overwhelmed, and desperate for a solution.

That's when I started my online search for legitimate ways to make money from home. I spent countless hours, weeks, and months trying out different opportunities, some of which worked and many of which didn't. Eventually, I compiled all of the information I gathered into this comprehensive guide, which has allowed me to live my dream life for the past five years. I've been able to work from anywhere, travel the world, and pursue my passions (acting and jewelry making), all while making a steady income.

Who is this book for?

This book is for anyone who wants to take control of their life and create a lifestyle that works for them. Whether you're looking to earn a little extra cash on the side or completely replace your current income, the opportunities outlined in this guide can help you achieve your goals. You don't need any special skills or experience to get started - just a willingness to learn, a strong work ethic, and an open mind.

What You Can Expect to Learn:

In this book, you'll discover a wide range of legitimate income opportunities that you can take advantage of from the comfort of your own home. From teaching English online to freelance writing, voice-over work, virtual assistance, and more, you'll learn about the top platforms, websites, and strategies for success in each field.

But this book isn't just about the opportunities themselves. It's also about developing the mindset and skills you need to thrive as a freelancer or remote worker. You'll learn how to set realistic goals, manage your time effectively, and stay motivated even when things get tough. We'll cover the practical aspects of working from home, such as setting up your workspace, staying organized, and managing your finances.

By the end of this book, you'll have all the tools and knowledge you need to create your own "ultimate survival gig" - a combination of income streams that allows you to live life on your own terms. You'll be well on your way to achieving the financial freedom and flexibility you've always dreamed of.

So, whether you're just starting out on your journey or you've been searching for a way to escape the rat race for years, I invite you to join me on this exciting adventure. Together, we'll explore the endless possibilities of the digital age and create a life that truly works for you.

Let's get started!

CHAPTER 1

Roadmap to Success

Imagine this: you're standing on a bustling city street, your restaurant apron traded in for a worn-out pair of jeans and a t-shirt that's seen better days. You've got a script in one hand and a dream in the other, but your pockets are empty, and your stomach is growling. That's the reality I found myself in just a few short years ago, and let me tell you, it was a far cry from the life I had known before.

You see, I used to be a big shot in the marketing and even owned my own restaurant. I had a thriving business, a team of employees, and a bank account that never seemed to run dry. But deep down, I knew something was missing. I had always dreamed of being an actor (what I lovingly call my "holy shit fuck goal"), of bringing stories to life on stage and screen. And so, one day, I made the crazy decision to sell my restaurant and pursue my passion.

At first, it was exhilarating. I threw myself into acting classes, auditions, and networking events. I felt alive in a way I never had before. But as the months went by and the rejections piled up, I started to realize just how tough this business could be. I was burning through my savings faster than I could replenish them,

and I knew I needed to find a way to make ends meet while still chasing my dreams.

That's when I turned to the world of online income opportunities. At first, the vast sea of endless videos and false promises about making millions online felt insurmountable. I had always been a traditional businessman and had lived by the motto "making money is simple, not easy but simple. I had faith that the idea of making money from my laptop was a good one, but I didn't have time to waste on all the get rich quick concepts like drop shipping and affiliate marketing. As I dug deeper, I realized that there were countless legitimate ways to use my skills and experience to create a sustainable income stream, all while still having the flexibility to pursue my acting career.

And so, I embarked on a journey to create my ultimate survival gig. It wasn't easy, and there were plenty of obstacles along the way. But through trial and error, I discovered a formula that worked for me. Within six months, I was making enough money to cover my living expenses and invest in my acting career, all on my own terms.

But enough about me - let's talk about you. If you're reading this book, chances are you're in a similar situation. Maybe you've left a stable career to pursue your artistic dreams, or maybe you're just looking for a way to make ends meet while still having the freedom to create. Whatever your reason, I'm here to tell you that it's possible. You can build a life that allows you to thrive as an artist, and it all starts with a solid plan.

First and foremost, you need to get clear on your goals. What does success look like to you? Is it landing a leading role in a Broadway play? Is it being able to support yourself entirely through your art? Is it having the freedom to travel the world and create on your own terms? Take a moment to really visualize your ideal life, and then write it down in as much detail as possible.

When I first started my own journey, my goal was simple: I wanted to be able to pursue acting full-time, without having to worry about where my next meal was coming from. I wanted to be able to take risks, to say yes to opportunities that scared me, and to fully immerse myself in my craft. And so, I wrote that down in my journal, and I made it my north star.

Next, you need to get real about your finances. How much money do you need to make to support yourself and your artistic pursuits? This can be a tough question to answer, especially if you're used to living on a shoestring budget. But it's crucial that you have a clear target to aim for.

Think about your basic living expenses - rent, food, transportation, healthcare. Then factor in any additional costs related to your art - classes, equipment, materials, travel. And don't forget to include a little cushion for unexpected expenses and emergencies. Once you have that number, add a little extra on top for savings and investments in your future. There are worksheets at the end of the chapter to help!

When I first started my survival gig journey, my magic number was \$4,000 per month. That's what I needed to cover my basic

expenses, invest in my acting career, and have a little left over for fun and relaxation. And guess what? Within six months of starting my online hustle, I was consistently hitting that target, all while still having the flexibility to attend auditions and workshops.

If you are like so many people, this is where you may feel stuck. You say ok so I know how much I want to make, and I know I hate my current situation.... But I have no idea what I want to do. This is normal. And I bet if you dug deep and called on your internal child you would have some pretty great ideas. The only issue is that it will be one of the scariest things you will ever do. I remember that moment for me. I was at a Jack Canfield training and he asked this very question. All I would think was WOW. My brain was shouting two different answers. One: Start a marketing firm, get 20 clients and make \$15-20K a month. SIMPLE. Two: be an actor. This I refer to as my Holy Shit Motherfuck goal. Because seriously who makes a living acting.

So what do I tell people who ask me this question of what should I do? How do I know what my purpose is? It's more simple than you think.

- » Make a list of the things you love doing. I mean a real list and include everything. There is no wrong answer here.
- » Make a list of what you are good at or could become an expert at in a short time (1-2 years) with some training. What you are good at and what you love are often not

the same thing. But you WILL come up with a list of things that overlap. Then take that list and ask the final question.

- What does the work NEED. What are people willing to pay for?

Now you have your purpose.



I remember the moment it all clicked for me. I had just finished a particularly grueling audition, and I was feeling defeated and discouraged. But when I checked my email, I saw that I had landed a new freelance writing gig that would pay me \$500 for just a few hours of work. Suddenly, my perspective shifted. I realized that I had the power to create my own opportunities, to build a life that worked for me, rather than trying to fit myself into someone else's mold.

But it wasn't just about the money. It was about the sense of empowerment and control that came with it. I was no longer at the mercy of casting directors and producers. I was the master of my own destiny, the architect of my own success. And that feeling was priceless.

Of course, the journey wasn't always easy. There were times when I doubted myself, when I wondered if I had made the right choice. But every time I faced a challenge, I reminded myself of my ultimate goal - to live a life that was true to myself and my passions. And that gave me the strength to keep going, even when the road ahead seemed uncertain.

And that's what I want for you, too. I want you to experience the joy and the freedom that comes with creating a life that truly aligns with your values and your dreams. I want you to wake up each day feeling excited and inspired, rather than stressed and overwhelmed. I want you to have the time and the resources to fully devote yourself to your art, without constantly worrying about how you're going to pay the bills.

So, let's keep going. In the next section, we'll talk about how to create a schedule that allows you to balance your artistic pursuits with your financial needs. We'll also explore some of the specific online income opportunities that are available to artists and creatives, and how to get started with minimal investment.

But for now, I want you to take a moment to celebrate. You've already taken the first step towards building a life that works for you, just by picking up this book and committing to the journey ahead. That takes courage, and I'm so proud of you for being here.

Remember, your art matters. Your dreams matter. And with the right plan and a little bit of hustle, anything is possible.

So, let's keep going. Your ultimate survival gig awaits!

GET CLEAR WHY

*Identify your dream,
needs and resources available....*



YOUR WHY :

WHEN WILL YOU START (COMMIT):

GOAL DEADLINE (PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDER):

When can you do the work ?

Finacial Goal

How much time are you willing to dedicate?

How much \$\$ can you invest ?



my Dream life

WRITE YOU WHY HERE

INCOME GOAL

RESOURCES TO SPEND / HOUR TO DEDICATE

CHAPTER 2

Mindset and Preparation

Alright, so you've got your roadmap, and you're feeling excited about the possibilities ahead. But before we dive into the specific income opportunities, we need to talk about something even more important: your mindset.

You see, when you're embarking on a new journey, especially one that involves taking risks and stepping outside of your comfort zone, your mindset is everything. It's the lens through which you view the world, the filter that determines how you interpret challenges and setbacks. And if you want to succeed as an artist and an entrepreneur, you need to cultivate a mindset that is resilient, adaptable, and growth-oriented.

I learned this the hard way when I first started my own survival gig journey. Coming from the restaurant industry, I was used to a certain level of structure and predictability. I had a team of employees to delegate to, a set schedule to follow, and a clear hierarchy of authority. But when I made the transition to the world of online entrepreneurship, all of that went out the window.

Suddenly, I was my own boss, my own employee, and my own cheerleader. I had to learn how to manage my time, my energy,

and my emotions in a whole new way. And at first, it was overwhelming. I found myself procrastinating, doubting myself, and getting easily discouraged by even the smallest setbacks.

But over time, I realized that the key to success wasn't just about finding the right opportunities or mastering the technical skills. It was about developing a mindset that allowed me to stay focused, motivated, and resilient in the face of uncertainty.

So, what does that mindset look like? Here are a few key components:

1. **Embrace discomfort:** As an artist, you're probably already familiar with the idea of stepping outside of your comfort zone. But when it comes to building a business or a freelance career, discomfort is par for the course. You'll need to learn new skills, put yourself out there in new ways, and take risks that may feel scary at first. But remember, discomfort is a sign that you're growing and evolving. Embrace it, and lean into the challenges that come your way.
2. **Cultivate a growth mindset:** In the world of entrepreneurship, failure is not the opposite of success - it's a necessary part of the journey. You will make mistakes, you will face rejections, and you will have moments where you feel like giving up. But if you can reframe those experiences as opportunities for learning and growth, you'll be much more resilient in the long run. Remember, every "no" brings you one step closer to a "yes".

3. Focus on value: When you're building a business or a freelance career, it's easy to get caught up in the numbers - how many followers you have, how much money you're making, how many gigs you're booking. But at the end of the day, the most important thing is the value you're creating for others. Focus on providing high-quality work, building genuine relationships, and making a positive impact in your industry. The rest will follow.
4. Prioritize self-care: As an artist and an entrepreneur, it's easy to fall into the trap of hustling 24/7 and burning yourself out in the process. But if you want to sustain your success in the long run, you need to prioritize self-care. That means taking breaks when you need them, setting boundaries around your time and energy, and investing in activities that nourish your mind, body, and soul. Remember, you can't pour from an empty cup.
5. Surround yourself with support: Finally, one of the most important things you can do as an artist and an entrepreneur is to surround yourself with a supportive community. Find mentors who can guide you, peers who can relate to your struggles, and cheerleaders who will celebrate your successes. Building a business can be a lonely journey at times, but it doesn't have to be. Seek out the people who will lift you up and keep you accountable. I personally have two accountability partners. One for my business gig ventures and the other for my acting goals.

Now, I know what you might be thinking: "That all sounds great, but how do I actually put it into practice?" And the truth is, developing a strong mindset is a lifelong journey. It's not something you can check off your to-do list and be done with. But there are a few practical steps you can take to get started:

1. Set clear goals and intentions: Take some time to get clear on what you want to achieve, both in your artistic career and your business. Write down your goals, and then break them down into smaller, actionable steps. Having a clear roadmap will help you stay focused and motivated, even when things get tough.
2. Create a daily routine: As an entrepreneur, it's easy to fall into the trap of working around the clock and neglecting your own needs. But if you want to sustain your success in the long run, you need to create a daily routine that supports your well-being. That might mean setting aside time for exercise, meditation, or creative pursuits. It might mean establishing clear boundaries around your work hours and your personal time. Whatever it looks like for you, make sure your routine is realistic, sustainable, and aligned with your goals.
3. Practice gratitude: When you're in the thick of building a business, it's easy to get caught up in the challenges and the setbacks. But if you can take a step back and practice gratitude for the things that are going well, it can shift your entire perspective. Make it a habit to write down

three things you're grateful for each day, no matter how small they may seem. Over time, this practice will help you cultivate a more positive and resilient mindset. I have a small journal that I start anew every year and write in every morning.

4. Seek out learning opportunities: As an entrepreneur, you'll need to wear many different hats and learn many different skills. But the good news is, there are countless resources available to help you grow and develop. Seek out books, courses, workshops, and mentors that can help you fill in the gaps in your knowledge and skills. Remember, investing in yourself is one of the best investments you can make.
5. Celebrate your wins: Finally, don't forget to celebrate your wins along the way. Building a business is a marathon, not a sprint, and it's important to acknowledge and celebrate the milestones and achievements that you reach. Whether it's landing your first client, hitting a revenue goal, or simply getting through a tough week, take the time to celebrate and reflect on how far you've come.

And speaking of celebrating wins, I want to take a moment to celebrate YOU. By picking up this book and committing to building a survival gig, you've already taken a huge step towards creating a life that aligns with your passions and your values. That takes courage, and I'm so proud of you for being here.

But the journey is just beginning. In the next chapter, we'll dive into the practical steps you can take to set up your workspace, get organized, and start building your online presence. We'll talk about the tools and resources you'll need, and how to create a schedule that allows you to balance your artistic pursuits with your business goals.

Remember, building a survival gig is not about sacrificing your art or your dreams. It's about creating a foundation that allows you to pursue them with more freedom, flexibility, and financial stability. And with the right mindset and a little bit of preparation, anything is possible.

So, take a deep breath, grab your notebook, and let's keep going. Your ultimate survival gig awaits!

PART II

Income Opportunities

Alright, folks, it's time to roll up our sleeves and dive into the juicy stuff! In this section, we'll be exploring the various income opportunities available to artists, creatives, and anyone looking to build a flexible and fulfilling career.

Now, I know what you might be thinking. "But wait, I'm an actor/painter/musician/etc. I don't have any business skills! How am I supposed to make money online?" And trust me, I get it. When I first started my own survival gig journey, I felt the same way. I was an actor, not an entrepreneur. I knew how to memorize lines and take direction, not how to build a website or market my services.

But here's the thing: as artists, we have a unique set of skills and talents that are incredibly valuable in the online world. We know how to tell stories, how to connect with people on an emotional level, and how to think outside the box. And those skills are in high demand, whether you're teaching English online, writing compelling content, or creating engaging videos.

In the following chapters, we'll be exploring a wide range of income opportunities that are perfect for artists and creatives.

From freelance writing and graphic design to online teaching and virtual assisting, there's something for everyone. And the best part? You don't need any fancy degrees or expensive equipment to get started. All you need is a willingness to learn, a strong work ethic, and a bit of creativity.

But before we dive in, I want to make one thing clear: building a survival gig is not about abandoning your artistic dreams or selling out. In fact, it's the opposite. By creating a stable and reliable income stream, you're giving yourself the freedom and flexibility to pursue your art on your own terms. You're no longer at the mercy of casting directors, gallery owners, or record labels. You're in control of your own destiny.

And who knows? As you start to build your online presence and connect with other like-minded creatives, you may even find new opportunities to showcase your art and grow your audience. Your survival gig could become a launching pad for your artistic career, rather than a hindrance.

So, whether you're a struggling actor looking to pay the bills between auditions, a musician trying to fund your next album, or a writer dreaming of publishing your first novel, this section is for you. We'll be diving deep into each income opportunity, exploring the skills and tools you'll need, the potential earnings you can expect, and the steps you can take to get started.

But remember, building a successful survival gig takes time, effort, and a willingness to experiment. You may not find your

perfect fit right away, and that's okay. The key is to keep an open mind, stay curious, and be willing to pivot when necessary.

So, grab your notebook, your favorite pen, and a big ol' cup of coffee (or tea, if that's more your style). It's time to start exploring the exciting world of online income opportunities. Who knows where this journey may lead you?

Let's get started!

Use this Gig Breakdown List to begin creating the first draft of your Ultimate Survival Gig Puzzle (a list of gigs you would like to explore to create your dream schedule, gigs and income). After looking at the Breakdown you may want to skip to the chapters that interest you the most first. This will save you a ton of time and effort. Come back to the less interesting gigs as time permits. One note to keep in mind is that some gigs are easier to start and have a lower cost threshold or greater income potential. So, while you may prioritize these gigs over the others based on necessity. But remember your gig puzzle is ever evolving and as you begin building the life of your dreams you may shift to gigs that are more suited to your talents and interests. You may also need to do this because some gigs take time, and I mean time to really get going.

GIG BREAKDOWN LIST

USE "YOUR" IDENTIFIED GIGS ON GIG PUZZLE WORKSHEET



WHY / DREAM:		AVAILABLE TIME: WEEKLY OR MONTH	
INCOME GOAL: (FROM BUDGET WORKSHEET)		RESOURCES : (INVESTMENT)	
GIG	TIME	INCOME	RESOURCES
TEACH ENGLISH	12.5 HRS / WEEK MIN MORNINGS & EVENINGS HOURS AVAILABLE 70 +	\$20 / HR AV \$500 - 5600 (CERTAIN)	\$15 - 50
WRITE	5 HRS WEEK MIN FLEXIBLE DEADLINE DRIVEN	MIN \$75 A MO \$2500 + MO (POTENTIAL)	\$50 -100
FREELANCER	10 HRS / WEEK MIN 30 + AVERAGE FLEX - DEADLINE	\$500 / WEEK \$10, 000 MO (POTENTIAL)	\$200 MIN
VIRTUAL ASSISTANT	10 HRS / WEEK MIN DEADLINE DRIVEN	\$12 / HR MIN \$40+ / HOUR (POTENTIAL)	\$15
VOICE OVER	5 HRS / WEEK MIN DEADLINE DRIVE	MIN \$40 A MO \$1000 - 5000 + (POTENTIAL)	\$400 - 500 (MIN)
DATA ENTRY	5 HRS / WEEK MIN	\$10 - 25 / HOUR AVE (CERTAIN)	\$15-25
TOUR GUIDE	10 HRS / WEEK MIN SPECIFIC HOURS BUT YOU CHOOSE THEM	\$100 / WEEK \$10,000 + MO (POTENTIAL)	\$100 - 200
USE YOUR RESOURCES	3 HRS / WEEK MIN COMMUNICATION TIME NEEDED	\$300 / MO MIN \$1500 + MO (POTENTIAL)	\$100 - 200



As you begin to work through the list of gigs use this tool to create your Ultimate Gig Puzzle. This is a combination of several gigs to meet your ideal goal.

Sample:

YOUR ROAD MAP TO SUCCESS

GIG PUZZLE

Ultimate Survival Gig

LEGIT REMOTE INCOME

WHY / DREAM:

\$\$ GOAL: 3,000

COMPLETION DATE GOAL : 4 weeks

HRS AVAILABLE: 35 hr

YOUR PUZZLE

YOUR LIST OF GIGS	HOURS DEDICATED	\$\$ GOAL
Teach English	18 hr / wk	\$1,440
Write Resumes	5 hr / wk	\$800
Upwork	6 hr / wk	\$250
Airbnb "Experience"	4 hr / wk	\$464
Airbnb "Hosting"	8 Nights / Mo	\$400
TOTAL TIME & \$\$	35 hr / wk	\$3,354

SHOULD EQUAL NUMBERS FROM ABOVE

Blank Form:

YOUR ROAD MAP TO SUCCESS

GIG PUZZLE



WHY / DREAM:	\$\$ GOAL:
COMPLETION DATE GOAL :	HRS AVAILABLE:

YOUR PUZZLE

YOUR LIST OF GIGS	HOURS DEDICATED	\$\$ GOAL
TOTAL TIME & \$\$		

SHOULD EQUAL NUMBERS
FROM ABOVE

CHAPTER 3

Teaching English Online

Alright, my friends, let's dive into one of the most popular and accessible income opportunities out there: teaching English online. Now, I know what some of you might be thinking. "But wait, I'm not a teacher! I don't have any experience!" Well, guess what? Neither did I when I first started. But as it turns out, you don't need a fancy degree or years of teaching experience to succeed in this field. All you need is a passion for language, a friendly demeanor, and a willingness to learn.

So, why is teaching English online such a great opportunity for artists and creatives? Well, for starters, it's incredibly flexible. Most online teaching platforms allow you to set your own hours and work from anywhere in the world, as long as you have a reliable internet connection. That means you can teach a few classes in the morning, head to an audition in the afternoon, and still have time to work on your craft in the evening. It's the perfect way to balance your artistic pursuits with your financial needs.

But the benefits don't stop there. Teaching English online can also be incredibly rewarding. You get to connect with students from all over the world, share your love of language and culture,

and make a real difference in someone's life. Plus, it's a great way to hone your communication and interpersonal skills, which can come in handy in all sorts of artistic and professional contexts.

Okay, so now that you're convinced (or at least intrigued), let's talk about how to get started. The first step is to choose a platform that aligns with your goals and preferences. Here are a few of the most popular options:

- » VIPKid (<https://www.vipkid.com/>): This platform connects English teachers with Chinese students aged 4-12. You'll need a bachelor's degree and some teaching experience (or a TEFL certification) to apply, but the pay is competitive and the scheduling is flexible.
- » Cambly (<https://www.cambly.com/>): If you're looking for a more casual teaching experience, Cambly might be the perfect fit. You'll have conversations with adult learners from around the world, and you don't need any formal teaching experience to get started.
- » iTalki (<https://www.italki.com/>): This platform connects language learners with teachers for one-on-one lessons. You can set your own rates and schedule, and you don't need any specific qualifications to sign up.
- » QKids (<https://teacher.qkids.com/>): Similar to VIPKid, QKids connects English teachers with Chinese students aged 4-12. You'll need a bachelor's degree and a TEFL

certification to apply, but the pay is competitive and the platform provides all the lesson materials.

- » Preply (<https://preply.com/>): This platform allows you to create a profile and set your own rates for one-on-one lessons with students from around the world. You don't need any specific qualifications to sign up, but having some teaching experience or a TEFL certification can help you stand out.

Once you've chosen a platform, the next step is to create a killer profile. This is where you'll showcase your personality, teaching style, and qualifications. Be sure to include a friendly and professional photo, a clear and concise bio, and any relevant experience or certifications.

If you don't have any formal teaching experience, don't worry! You can still highlight your language skills, your passion for teaching, and any relevant experience you have working with kids or adults. And if you want to boost your credibility, consider getting a TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) certification. There are plenty of affordable online courses out there, and having that extra qualification can make you a more competitive candidate.

Alright, so you've got your profile set up and you're ready to start teaching. But wait! Remember that roadmap we created back in Chapter 1? Now's the time to put it to use. Refer back to your income goals, your time availability, and your resources. How many classes do you need to teach each week to meet your

financial needs? What times of day work best for your schedule? Do you have a quiet, well-lit space to teach from?

Use this information to create a realistic and sustainable teaching schedule. And don't be afraid to start small and gradually build up your hours as you get more comfortable with the platform and the teaching process.

Now, I know the idea of teaching your first class can be intimidating. But remember, everyone starts somewhere. And the great thing about teaching English online is that most platforms provide lesson plans, teaching materials, and even training and support to help you succeed.

So, take a deep breath, smile, and embrace the adventure. You might be surprised at how quickly you start to feel comfortable and confident in your teaching abilities.

Oh, and one more thing! Don't forget to celebrate your wins along the way. Whether it's your first successful lesson, a glowing review from a student, or hitting your weekly income goal, take the time to acknowledge and celebrate your progress. Teaching English online can be a fun and rewarding way to support your artistic pursuits, and every small victory is worth savoring.

So, there you have it, folks. Teaching English online: a flexible, rewarding, and totally accessible income opportunity for artists and creatives. With the right platform, a stellar profile, and a bit

of hustle, you can start generating a steady income stream that supports your artistic dreams.

And who knows? You might just discover a new passion for teaching and language along the way. Stranger things have happened!

Alright, my friends, that's a wrap on Chapter 3. But don't worry, we're just getting started. In the next chapter, we'll be diving into the world of freelance writing and exploring how you can use your storytelling skills to build a thriving writing business. So, grab a fresh notebook, sharpen those pencils, and let's keep this party rolling!

CHAPTER 3.1: TEACHING ENGLISH ONLINE AND ACCENT REDUCTION COACHING

Well, well, well, my friends. In the last chapter, we talked about the incredible opportunity of teaching English online. But today, we're going to take it up a notch and explore another lucrative and rewarding niche: accent reduction coaching. That's right, folks! If you've got a knack for languages and a passion for helping others improve their communication skills, this might just be the perfect gig for you.

But first, let's do a quick recap on teaching English online. As we discussed, this is a fantastic way for artists and creatives to generate a flexible and reliable income stream. With platforms like VIPKid, Cambly, iTalki, QKids, and Preply, you can connect

with students from all over the world and make a real difference in their lives. And the best part? You don't need a fancy degree or years of teaching experience to get started.

Now, let's dive into the world of accent reduction coaching. So, what exactly is it? In a nutshell, it's the process of helping non-native English speakers improve their pronunciation, intonation, and overall speaking skills. As a coach, you'll work with clients one-on-one or in small groups to help them communicate more clearly and confidently in English.

And let me tell you, the demand for this service is skyrocketing. In today's global economy, strong English communication skills are more important than ever. Whether your clients are business professionals, students, or just individuals looking to improve their language skills, accent reduction coaching can be a game-changer.

But why is it such a great opportunity for artists and creatives? Well, just like teaching English online, accent reduction coaching offers incredible flexibility. You can work from anywhere in the world, set your own hours, and take on as many or as few clients as you like. Plus, it's a chance to use your creative skills in a whole new way. You'll need to come up with engaging and effective lesson plans, provide constructive feedback, and keep your clients motivated and inspired.

Okay, so now that you're on board (or at least intrigued), let's talk about how to get started. The first step is to assess your own language and communication skills. Do you have a strong

command of English pronunciation and intonation? Can you explain complex linguistic concepts in a clear and accessible way? If you're not sure, don't worry! There are plenty of resources out there to help you improve your own skills and become a more effective coach.

Next, you'll want to choose a platform or approach that aligns with your goals and preferences. Here are a few options to consider:

- » iTalki (<https://www.italki.com/>): As we mentioned earlier, iTalki is a great platform for connecting with language learners around the world. You can create a profile, set your own rates, and offer accent reduction coaching as one of your specialties.
- » Preply (<https://preply.com/>): Another platform we discussed earlier, Preply allows you to create a profile and offer a range of language services, including accent reduction coaching.
- » Accent Advisor (<https://accentadvisor.com/>): This platform is specifically designed for accent reduction coaching. You can create a profile, set your own rates, and connect with clients from a variety of industries and backgrounds.
- » Accent Reduction Institute (<https://accentreductioninstitute.com/>): If you're looking to take your coaching skills to the next level, consider

getting certified through the Accent Reduction Institute. They offer a comprehensive training program that covers everything from phonetics to teaching techniques.

- » Independent Coaching: Of course, you can also strike out on your own and offer accent reduction coaching as an independent service. You can create your own website, market your services on social media, and connect with clients through networking and referrals.

Once you've chosen your platform or approach, it's time to start building your coaching business. And remember that roadmap we created back in Chapter 1? It's time to put it to work! Refer back to your income goals, your time availability, and your resources. How many clients do you need to take on each week to meet your financial needs? What times of day work best for your schedule? Do you have a quiet, well-lit space to coach from?

Use this information to create a realistic and sustainable coaching schedule. And just like with teaching English online, don't be afraid to start small and gradually build up your client base as you get more comfortable and confident in your coaching abilities.

Now, I know the idea of coaching your first client can be nerve-racking. But remember, everyone starts somewhere. And the great thing about accent reduction coaching is that there are plenty of resources and tools out there to help you succeed.

From pronunciation guides to lesson plan templates, you don't have to reinvent the wheel.

So, take a deep breath, channel your inner language guru, and embrace the challenge. With a little bit of patience, persistence, and creativity, you can build a thriving accent reduction coaching business that supports your artistic pursuits and helps others achieve their language goals.

And don't forget to celebrate your wins along the way! Whether it's a breakthrough moment with a client, a glowing review, or hitting your monthly income goal, take the time to acknowledge and celebrate your progress. Accent reduction coaching can be a fun and fulfilling way to make a difference in people's lives, and every small victory is worth savoring.

Phew! That was a lot of information to take in, but I hope you're feeling excited and empowered to explore the world of accent reduction coaching. Whether you choose to pursue it as your main income stream or as a complementary service to teaching English online, it's a fantastic opportunity to use your language skills and creativity in a meaningful way.

And hey, who knows? You might just discover a hidden talent for helping others unlock their full communication potential. Stranger things have happened!

Alright, my friends, that's a wrap on Chapter 3. But don't wander off too far, because in the next chapter, we'll be diving into the wild and wonderful world of freelance writing. So, grab

a fresh cup of coffee, do a quick vocal warm-up (trust me, your clients will thank you), and let's keep this adventure rolling!

Resources For Teaching English:

CREATE YOUR GIG PLACE

GIG ACTION LIST



GIG NAME:

\$\$ GOAL:

RESOURCES NEEDED:

WORK DETAILS

ACTION	DEADLINE	COMPLETED

Example:

CREATE YOUR GIG PLAN

GIG ACTION LIST



GIG NAME: TEACH ENGLISH

\$\$ GOAL: \$1800

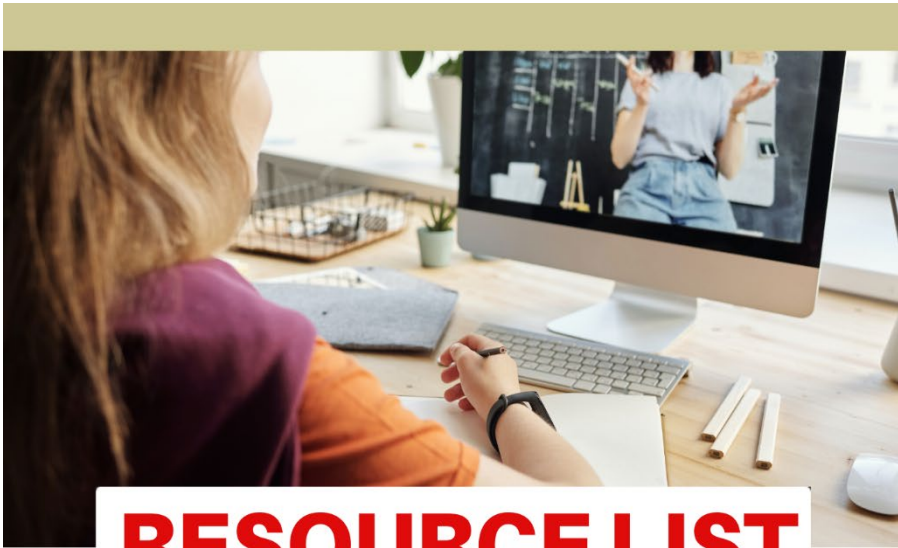
RESOURCES NEEDED:

POLO SHIRT, BACKDROP, FLASH CARDS, SMALL WHITE BOARD, FUN TEACHING SUPPLIES (\$1 STORE & THRIFT)
COPY OF TRANSCRIPT, BACK ROUTING INFORMATION (CAN GET ON CHECK OR BY CONTACTING BANK)

WORK DETAILS

ACTION	DEADLINE	COMPLETED
SETUP PROFILE		
SCHEDULE MOCK CLASS #1		
WATCH MOCK CLASS VIDEOS ON YOUTUBE		
GET SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR MOCK CLASS		
SET UP VIRTUAL CLASSROOM SPACE		
PRACTICE MOCK CLASS (A LOT)		
COMPLETE MOCK CLASS #1 & 2		
FINISH PAPERWORK & START TEACHING		

Sample Resources List:



RESOURCE LIST

TEACH ENGLISH



Your Classroom

Creating a classroom environment is an essential part of the selection and teaching process. The cheapest way if to hang a few posters on a blank wall or hang a "kids" birthday table cloth on the wall.

Both items can be purchased at any \$1 store.



Apparel

You will need a shirt in the color designated by the company that you are teaching for (most likely a polo). This can be purchased at any thrift store for \$5- 10 .



Props

You will be graced on your use of props. I would suggest both alphabet and number / color flash cards. A mini white board.

A puppet or stuffed animal. Fun stickers or stars for a reward system.

Additional items as desired. All supplies can be purchased at any \$1.

Carpe Diem!

*Ultimate
Survival Pig*

LEAD REMOTE TEACHING

CHAPTER 4

Unleashing Your Inner Wordsmith: Freelance Writing

Welcome back, my fellow creative adventurers! In the last chapter, we explored the exciting world of teaching English online and accent reduction coaching. But today, we're going to dive into a realm that's near and dear to my heart: freelance writing. That's right, folks! If you've got a way with words and a passion for storytelling, this might just be the perfect survival gig for you.

Now, I know what some of you might be thinking. "But wait, I'm not a professional writer! I don't have any experience or credentials!" Well, guess what? Neither did I when I first started. But as it turns out, you don't need a fancy degree or a long list of published works to succeed as a freelance writer. All you need is a love of language, a willingness to learn, and a bit of good old-fashioned hustle.

So, why is freelance writing such a great opportunity for artists and creatives? Well, for starters, it's incredibly versatile. Whether you're a poet, a playwright, a screenwriter, or just someone who loves to spin a good yarn, there are countless ways to put your writing skills to work. You can write blog posts, articles, social media content, product descriptions, and so much more. The possibilities are truly endless!

But the benefits don't stop there. Freelance writing also offers incredible flexibility. You can work from anywhere in the world, set your own hours, and take on as much or as little work as you like. Plus, it's a chance to explore new topics, connect with interesting people, and even build a name for yourself in your industry.

Okay, so now that you're convinced (or at least curious), let's talk about how to get started. The first step is to assess your writing skills and interests. What kind of writing do you enjoy? What topics are you passionate about? Do you have any specific areas of expertise or experience that you can leverage?

Once you have a sense of your writing niche, it's time to start building your portfolio. Now, I know this can feel daunting, especially if you don't have a lot of writing samples to your name. But don't worry! There are plenty of ways to create writing samples from scratch. You can write blog posts for your own website, create mock articles or product descriptions, or even volunteer to write for a local nonprofit or community organization.

The key is to showcase your writing style, your voice, and your ability to craft compelling, engaging content. And remember, your portfolio doesn't have to be perfect right out of the gate. You can always update and refine it as you go.

Alright, so you've got a portfolio (or at least the start of one). Now it's time to start pitching yourself to potential clients. And let me tell you, there are countless websites and platforms out there that connect freelance writers with businesses and individuals in need of content. Here are just a few to get you started:

- » Upwork (<https://www.upwork.com/>): One of the largest and most popular freelancing platforms, Upwork allows you to create a profile, bid on writing projects, and connect with clients from all over the world.
- » Freelancer (<https://www.freelancer.com/>): Similar to Upwork, Freelancer is a global platform that connects freelancers with businesses and individuals in need of a wide range of services, including writing.
- » Fiverr (<https://www.fiverr.com/>): If you're looking for smaller, more bite-sized writing projects, Fiverr might be the perfect fit. You can create a profile, set your own rates, and offer a variety of writing services, from blog posts to product descriptions to social media content.
- » ProBlogger Job Board (<https://problogger.com/jobs/>): As the name suggests, this job board is specifically

geared toward bloggers and content creators. You can browse a wide range of writing opportunities, from one-time gigs to ongoing contracts.

- » MediaBistro (<https://www.mediabistro.com/>): If you're interested in writing for media outlets, magazines, or other publications, MediaBistro is a great resource. They offer a job board, freelance marketplace, and even online courses to help you hone your writing skills.

Now, I know the idea of pitching yourself to strangers can be intimidating. But remember, everyone starts somewhere. And the great thing about freelance writing is that there are opportunities for writers of all levels and backgrounds.

So, take a deep breath, channel your inner Hemingway (or Dickinson, or King, or whoever your writing idol may be), and start putting yourself out there. Craft thoughtful, tailored pitches that showcase your writing style and your unique perspective. And don't be afraid to follow up, ask for feedback, and keep refining your approach as you go.

Oh, and remember that roadmap we created back in Chapter 1? Now's the time to put it to use! Refer back to your income goals, your time availability, and your resources. How many writing projects do you need to take on each week to meet your financial needs? What times of day are best for you to write? Do you have a quiet, inspiring space to work from?

Use this information to create a realistic and sustainable writing schedule. And don't forget to build in time for pitching, researching, and revising your work. Freelance writing is a hustle, but it's also a craft. The more time and energy you put into honing your skills and delivering quality work, the more success you'll ultimately achieve.

And speaking of success, don't forget to celebrate your wins along the way! Whether it's landing your first paying client, receiving a glowing review, or seeing your byline in print (or pixels), take the time to savor your accomplishments. Freelance writing can be a challenging and competitive field, but it's also incredibly rewarding. Every success, no matter how small, is a testament to your talent, your dedication, and your creative spirit.

So, there you have it, my fellow wordsmiths. Freelance writing: a flexible, fulfilling, and totally achievable way to support your artistic dreams. With a little bit of hustle, a lot of heart, and a whole lot of caffeine (just kidding... sort of), you can build a thriving writing business that allows you to do what you love and get paid for it.

And who knows? You might just discover a whole new passion for the written word along the way. Stranger things have happened!

Alright, my friends, that's a wrap on Chapter 4. But don't put down your pens (or keyboards) just yet, because in the next chapter, we'll be exploring the wild and wacky world of voice acting. So, limber up those vocal cords, practice your best villain laugh, and let's keep this creative caravan rolling!

CREATE YOUR GIG PLACE

GIG ACTION LIST



GIG NAME:

\$\$ GOAL:

RESOURCES NEEDED:

WORK DETAILS

ACTION	DEADLINE	COMPLETED

CHAPTER 5

Finding Your Voice: The Art of Voice Acting

Welcome back, my creative comrades! In the last chapter, we delved into the exciting world of freelance writing. But today, we're going to explore a realm that's a little more vocal, a little more vibrant, and a whole lot more fun: voice acting! That's right, folks. If you've ever dreamed of bringing characters to life, narrating audiobooks, or lending your dulcet tones to commercials and animations, this might just be the perfect survival gig for you.

Now, I know what some of you might be thinking. "But wait, I'm not a trained actor! I don't have a fancy home studio or expensive equipment!" Well, fear not, my friends. Just like with freelance writing, you don't need a ton of experience or a Hollywood-sized budget to get started in voice acting. All you need is a decent microphone, a quiet space to record, and a willingness to put yourself out there and have some fun.

So, why is voice acting such a great opportunity for artists and creatives? Well, for starters, it's an incredibly versatile field.

Whether you're a comedian, a storyteller, a musician, or just someone who loves to play with words and sounds, there are countless ways to put your vocal skills to work. You can voice characters for video games, cartoons, and animations. You can narrate audiobooks, documentaries, and educational content. You can even lend your voice to commercials, explainer videos, and other promotional materials.

But the benefits don't stop there. Voice acting also offers a ton of flexibility and freedom. You can work from anywhere in the world, as long as you have a quiet space to record and a reliable internet connection. You can take on as much or as little work as you like, depending on your schedule and your financial needs. And perhaps best of all, you can do it all from the comfort of your own home, without ever having to change out of your pajamas (not that I would know anything about that, of course).

Okay, so now that you're excited (and maybe a little bit scared), let's talk about how to get started. The first step is to assess your vocal skills and interests. What kind of voice acting do you enjoy? What types of characters or stories do you feel most drawn to? Do you have any specific accents, impressions, or vocal techniques that you can leverage?

Once you have a sense of your voice acting niche, it's time to start building your home studio. Now, don't panic! You don't need to spend a fortune on fancy equipment or soundproofing. In fact, you can get started with just a few key pieces of gear.

First and foremost, you'll need a microphone. There are two main types of microphones you can use for voice acting: USB microphones and XLR microphones. USB microphones are the simplest and most affordable option, as they plug directly into your computer and don't require any additional equipment. Some popular USB microphones for voice acting include:

1. Blue Yeti (around \$130): A versatile, multi-pattern USB microphone that's great for a wide range of vocal styles and recording situations.
2. Audio-Technica AT2020USB+ (around \$150): A cardioid condenser USB microphone that offers great sound quality and ease of use.
3. Rode NT-USB (around \$170): A high-quality USB condenser microphone with a built-in pop filter and tripod stand.

XLR microphones, on the other hand, offer a bit more flexibility and higher sound quality, but they require an additional audio interface to connect to your computer. Some popular XLR microphones for voice acting include:

1. Rode NT1-A (around \$230): A large-diaphragm condenser microphone with a warm, clear sound that's great for voice acting.
2. Shure SM7B (around \$400): A dynamic microphone that's often used in professional radio and podcasting studios, known for its smooth, balanced sound.

3. Neumann TLM 103 (around \$1,100): A high-end condenser microphone that's often used in professional voice acting and recording studios, known for its exceptional clarity and detail.

If you choose to go the XLR route, you'll also need an audio interface to connect your microphone to your computer. Some popular options include:

1. Focusrite Scarlett Solo (around \$110): A simple, affordable audio interface with one XLR input and one headphone output.
2. PreSonus AudioBox USB 96 (around \$100): Another affordable option with two XLR inputs and a built-in headphone amp.
3. Universal Audio Apollo Twin X Duo (around \$900): A high-end audio interface with exceptional sound quality, built-in DSP effects, and a range of expandability options.

In addition to your microphone and audio interface, you'll also need a few other key pieces of equipment:

1. A microphone stand or boom arm to hold your microphone in place.
2. A pop filter to reduce plosives and other unwanted noise.

3. A pair of high-quality headphones for monitoring your recordings.
4. A quiet, acoustically treated space to record in (more on that in a bit).

Now, I know that all of this equipment talk can be a bit overwhelming, especially if you're just starting out. But don't worry! You don't need to break the bank to get started. In fact, you can put together a decent home studio for voice acting for around \$500 or less. Here's a sample setup:

- » Audio-Technica AT2020USB+ microphone: \$150
- » On-Stage Stands DS7200B Adjustable Desk Microphone Stand: \$30
- » Dragonpad USA Pop Filter: \$8
- » Sony MDR7506 Professional Large Diaphragm Headphones: \$90
- » Recording software, I use Audacity (Free)
- » Total: \$278

Of course, if you have a bit more budget to work with, you can always upgrade your equipment over time. But the key is to start with what you can afford and focus on developing your skills and building your portfolio.

Speaking of skills, let's talk about how to actually use all of this equipment to create great voice acting recordings. The first

step is to find a quiet, acoustically treated space to record in. This could be a closet, a dedicated recording booth, or even just a corner of your room with some blankets or foam panels hung up to absorb sound.

Once you have your recording space set up, it's time to start practicing. Begin by doing some vocal warm-ups and exercises to get your voice ready. Then, start experimenting with different characters, accents, and styles. Record yourself reading scripts or improvising dialogue, and listen back to see what works and what doesn't.

As you practice, pay attention to your microphone technique as well. Make sure you're speaking directly into the microphone, at a consistent distance and level. Use your pop filter to reduce plosives and other unwanted noise. And experiment with different microphone placements and settings to find the sound that works best for your voice and your recording space.

Once you feel confident in your skills and your setup, it's time to start putting yourself out there and looking for voice acting gigs. And let me tell you, there are countless websites and platforms out there that connect voice actors with clients and projects. Here are just a few to get you started:

1. Voices.com (<https://www.voices.com/>): One of the largest and most popular online marketplaces for voice actors, with a wide range of projects and clients from all over the world.

2. Voice123 (<https://voice123.com/>): Another popular platform that connects voice actors with clients and projects, with a focus on high-quality, professional-level work.
3. Fiverr (<https://www.fiverr.com/>): While not exclusively focused on voice acting, Fiverr is a great platform for finding smaller, one-off projects and building your portfolio.
4. ACX (<https://www.acx.com/>): If you're interested in narrating audiobooks, ACX is the platform for you. It connects audiobook narrators with authors and publishers, and offers a range of payment and royalty options.
5. Upwork (<https://www.upwork.com/>): Another general freelancing platform that often has voice acting and narration gigs available.
6. VoiceBunny (<https://bunnystudio.com/voice/>): This is a great platform; the only drawback is that it required an audition process. So, this may be more geared toward voice artists that are more established and have upgraded their equipment.

To get started on these platforms, you'll need to create a profile, upload some samples of your work, and start bidding on projects that interest you. Be sure to tailor your bids and

proposals to each specific project, highlighting your relevant skills and experience.

And remember, just like with any freelance gig, it's important to set clear expectations and communicate openly with your clients. Make sure you understand the scope of the project, the deadlines, and the payment terms before you start working. And don't be afraid to ask for feedback or clarification if you need it.

Oh, and one more thing! Remember that roadmap we created way back in Chapter 1? Now's the time to dust it off and put it to work. Take a look at your income goals, your time availability, and your resources. How many voice acting gigs do you need to take on each week to meet your financial needs? What times of day are best for you to record? And do you have all the equipment and resources you need to create high-quality work?

Use this information to create a realistic and sustainable voice acting schedule. And don't forget to build in time for practicing, marketing, and administrative tasks like invoicing and project management.

It's also a good idea to set some specific goals for your voice acting business. Maybe you want to book your first paid gig within the next month. Maybe you want to build up a portfolio of 10 high-quality samples by the end of the year. Or maybe you want to start specializing in a particular niche, like video game characters or e-learning narration.

Whatever your goals may be, be sure to write them down and break them down into specific, actionable steps. And don't forget to celebrate your wins along the way! Whether it's nailing a tricky accent, booking a big project, or just making it through a challenging recording session, take the time to acknowledge your hard work and progress.

Because here's the thing, my friends. Voice acting is not easy. It takes time, effort, and a whole lot of perseverance to build a successful career in this field. But it's also incredibly rewarding, both creatively and financially. When you find your voice and start bringing characters and stories to life, there's nothing quite like it.

So, if you're ready to take the leap and start exploring the wonderful world of voice acting, I say go for it. Embrace the challenges, the joys, and the occasional tongue twister. And most importantly, have fun with it. Because at the end of the day, that's what this whole creative journey is all about.

And who knows? With a little bit of luck and a lot of hard work, you might just become the next big thing in the world of voice acting. Stranger things have happened!

Alright, my friends, that's a wrap on Chapter 5. But don't go anywhere just yet, because in the next chapter, we'll be diving into the exciting and ever-evolving world of social media. So, warm up those vocal cords, practice your best hashtag, and let's keep this creative train rolling!

CREATE YOUR GIG PLACE

GIG ACTION LIST



GIG NAME:

\$\$ GOAL:

RESOURCES NEEDED:

WORK DETAILS

ACTION	DEADLINE	COMPLETED

CHAPTER 6

Navigating the Freelance Frontier: Online Platforms and Beyond

Well, hello there, my intrepid adventurers! We've covered quite a bit of ground so far, haven't we? From the written word to the spoken voice, we've explored some of the most exciting and rewarding survival gigs out there for artists and creatives. But today, we're going to take a slightly different tack and dive into the wild and wonderful world of online freelancing platforms.

Now, I know what some of you might be thinking. "But wait, isn't freelancing just for programmers and graphic designers? What does that have to do with being an artist?" Well, my friend, let me tell you. The beauty of online freelancing platforms is that they offer opportunities for all kinds of creative professionals, from writers and editors to voice actors and beyond.

Think about it. In today's digital age, businesses and individuals all over the world are in constant need of creative content and

services. They need engaging blog posts and articles, eye-catching social media graphics, compelling video scripts, and so much more. And where do they turn to find the talented folks who can bring their vision to life? You guessed it: online freelancing platforms.

So, why should you care about these platforms as an artist or creative? Well, for starters, they offer an incredible amount of flexibility and freedom. You can work from anywhere in the world, choose your own projects and clients, and set your own rates and schedule. Plus, you can use these platforms to build a diverse portfolio of work, network with other professionals in your field, and even land long-term clients and collaborators.

But I know what you might be thinking. "That all sounds great, but where do I even start? How do I know which platform is right for me, and how do I stand out in a sea of other freelancers?" Never fear, my friend. That's exactly what we're going to cover in this chapter.

First things first: let's talk about some of the most popular and reputable online freelancing platforms out there. Here are a few of the big ones:

1. Upwork (<https://www.upwork.com/>): One of the largest and most well-known platforms, Upwork offers a wide range of projects and clients across all kinds of industries and niches.

2. Freelancer (<https://www.freelancer.com/>): Another major player in the online freelancing space, Freelancer boasts a global community of over 50 million users and a diverse range of project categories.
3. Fiverr (<https://www.fiverr.com/>): While perhaps best known for its quirky \$5 gigs, Fiverr has evolved into a powerful platform for freelancers of all kinds, with a focus on creative and digital services.
4. 99designs (<https://99designs.com/>): If you're a visual artist or designer, 99designs is definitely worth checking out. It's a platform that connects clients with top-notch designers through a unique contest-based model.
5. Toptal (<https://www.toptal.com/>): While primarily focused on connecting top-tier developers and designers with high-paying clients, Toptal also offers opportunities for other creative professionals like writers and editors.

Of course, these are just a few of the many, many online freelancing platforms out there. Depending on your specific niche and skillset, you might also want to check out sites like Guru (www.guru.com), PeoplePerHour (www.peopleperhour.com), or even industry-specific platforms like Reedsy (www.reedsy.com) for writers and editors.

So, how do you choose the right platform for you? Well, it's all about doing your research and thinking strategically. Start by

making a list of your core skills and areas of expertise. Are you a killer copywriter with a knack for snappy headlines? A voice actor who can nail any accent or character? A graphic designer with a bold and unique style?

Once you have a clear sense of your niche, start exploring the different platforms and see which ones seem to have the most demand for your particular skillset. Take a look at the types of projects and clients on each site, and read up on their pricing models, fees, and policies.

You might also want to reach out to other freelancers in your network and ask for their experiences and recommendations. They can offer valuable insights into which platforms are most popular and profitable in your field, as well as tips and strategies for success.

Once you've chosen a platform (or two, or three), it's time to set up your profile and start bidding on projects. And this is where that handy-dandy roadmap from Chapter 1 comes in clutch.

Remember all those big dreams and goals you wrote down way back when? The income targets, the time commitments, the resources you had at your disposal? Well, now's the time to put them into action.

Start by thinking about your ideal client and project. What kind of work do you want to be doing? Who do you want to be working with? What are your non-negotiables in terms of rates, deadlines, and creative control?

Use these criteria to guide your project search and bidding strategy. Don't be afraid to be picky and hold out for the right opportunities. Remember, your time and talents are valuable, and you deserve to be compensated fairly for them.

When you do find a project that feels like a good fit, it's time to craft your proposal. This is where you get to showcase your skills, experience, and unique value proposition. Be sure to read the project brief carefully and tailor your proposal to the specific needs and goals of the client.

If you have relevant work samples or case studies, definitely include them in your proposal. And don't be afraid to let your personality shine through! Clients are looking for more than just a set of skills; they want to work with someone they can trust and connect with on a human level.

Once you've submitted your proposal, the waiting game begins. But don't just sit around twiddling your thumbs! Use this time to continue building your profile, seeking out new opportunities, and even working on personal projects or skill-building.

And when you do land that first project, it's time to put your best foot forward and deliver top-notch work. Communicate clearly and consistently with your client, hit your deadlines, and go above and beyond wherever possible. Building a strong reputation and positive feedback is key to long-term success on these platforms.

But of course, freelancing is not all sunshine and rainbows. There will be challenges and obstacles along the way, from difficult clients to dry spells in work. That's why it's so important to have a solid support system and self-care practice in place.

Make sure you're setting aside time for rest, relaxation, and creative rejuvenation. Connect with other freelancers and artists for advice, encouragement, and commiseration. And don't be afraid to seek out additional resources and training to help you level up your skills and navigate the ups and downs of the freelance life.

Remember, my friends, you are not alone in this journey. The freelance frontier is vast and wild, but it's also filled with opportunity, adventure, and incredible stories waiting to be told. So take a deep breath, trust in your talents, and let's keep exploring together.

And who knows? With a little bit of grit, gumption, and creative moxie, you might just become the next big thing in the world of online freelancing. Stranger things have definitely happened!

Alright, my intrepid adventurers, that's a wrap on Chapter 6. But don't wander off too far, because in the next chapter, we'll be delving into the mysterious and often misunderstood world of virtual assistance and data entry. Trust me, it's not as boring as it sounds! So grab a snack, stretch those typing fingers, and let's keep this party rolling.

CREATE YOUR GIG PLACE

GIG ACTION LIST



GIG NAME:

\$\$ GOAL:

RESOURCES NEEDED:

WORK DETAILS

ACTION	DEADLINE	COMPLETED

CHAPTER 7

The Unsung Heroes: Virtual Assistance and Data Entry

Welcome back, my fellow creative crusaders! In our last chapter, we took a deep dive into the wild and wonderful world of online freelancing platforms. But today, we're going to shine a spotlight on two often overlooked but incredibly valuable survival gigs: virtual assistance and data entry.

Now, I know what you might be thinking. "Virtual assistance? Data entry? That sounds about as exciting as watching paint dry!" But hear me out, my skeptical friend. These gigs may not have the same glamorous reputation as freelance writing or voice acting, but they can be an absolute lifesaver for artists and creatives who need a steady and reliable source of income.

First, let's talk about virtual assistance. In a nutshell, a virtual assistant (or VA for short) is someone who provides administrative, technical, or creative support to clients remotely. This can include everything from managing emails and schedules to con-

ducting research, writing blog posts, and even handling social media and customer service.

The beauty of virtual assistance is that it's an incredibly flexible and varied field. Depending on your skills and interests, you could specialize in anything from podcast production to e-commerce management to personal assistance for busy entrepreneurs. And because you're working remotely, you have the freedom to choose your own hours, projects, and clients.

But where do you find these magical VA gigs, you ask? Well, my friend, the internet is your oyster! Here are a few key places to start your search:

1. Zirtual (<https://www.zirtual.com/>): One of the leading virtual assistant companies, Zirtual matches busy professionals with dedicated VAs who can handle everything from scheduling to research to social media.
2. Time Etc (<https://web.timeetc.com/>): Another top-rated virtual assistant company, Time Etc offers a range of services for entrepreneurs and small businesses, including admin support, writing and editing, and even bookkeeping.
3. Fancy Hands (<https://www.fancyhands.com/>): With a unique task-based model, Fancy Hands allows clients to submit one-off requests for everything from data entry to research to customer service, which are then matched with skilled VAs.

4. Upwork (<https://www.upwork.com/>): Our old friend from Chapter 6, Upwork is also a great place to find virtual assistant gigs, particularly if you have specific skills or experience in a particular niche.
5. Indeed (<https://www.indeed.com/>): While primarily a job search engine, Indeed also has a robust selection of virtual assistant and remote work opportunities across a range of industries and skill levels.

Of course, these are just a few of the many, many options out there for aspiring VAs. You can also check out industry-specific job boards, social media groups for virtual assistants, and even good old-fashioned networking to find your ideal gigs.

Now, let's talk about data entry. I know, I know, it may not sound like the most thrilling gig in the world. But don't underestimate the power of a simple, straightforward, and reliable source of income, especially when you're just starting out on your creative journey.

At its core, data entry involves (you guessed it) entering data into various systems and platforms, whether that's customer information, financial records, or product details. It's a gig that requires attention to detail, accuracy, and efficiency, but it can also be surprisingly satisfying and even meditative once you get into a rhythm.

So, where can you find these elusive data entry gigs? Here are a few key places to start:

1. Clickworker (<https://www.clickworker.com/>): A leading platform for micro-tasks and data entry, Clickworker offers a range of projects for folks with strong typing, editing, and research skills.
2. Amazon Mechanical Turk (<https://www.mturk.com/>): While not exclusively focused on data entry, Mechanical Turk is a popular platform for small, one-off tasks that can include everything from transcription to data verification.
3. Fiverr (<https://www.fiverr.com/>): Believe it or not, Fiverr can be a great place to find data entry gigs, particularly if you're just starting out and looking to build your portfolio and reputation.
4. Freelancer (<https://www.freelancer.com/>): Another major player in the online freelancing space, Freelancer often has a solid selection of data entry and related gigs across a range of industries and project types.
5. Scribie (<https://scribie.com/>): If you're a speedy and accurate typist, Scribie could be a great fit for you. They offer audio and video transcription services, which can be a nice way to mix up your data entry routine.

Again, these are just a few examples of the many data entry opportunities out there. Depending on your specific skills and interests, you might also want to explore more specialized platforms like Birch Creek Communications (www.birchcreek.net/)

for medical coding and billing, or Xerox (www.xerox.com/en-us/jobs/work-from-home) for various data entry and customer service roles.

Now, I know what you might be thinking. "This all sounds great, but how do I actually get started with virtual assistance or data entry? What if I don't have any experience or specific skills?"

Fear not, my friend! Remember that handy-dandy roadmap we created way back in Chapter 1? It's time to bust it out and put it to work.

First, take a look at your income goals and time commitments. How much do you need to earn each month to keep the lights on and the creative juices flowing? And realistically, how many hours can you dedicate to your VA or data entry side hustle each week?

Use these numbers to guide your gig search and application strategy. If you're just starting out, you may need to take on a few lower-paying projects to build up your portfolio and reputation. But over time, as you gain experience and confidence, you can start to be more selective and hold out for those higher-paying, more fulfilling gigs.

Next, take an honest inventory of your current skills and strengths. Are you a social media whiz with a knack for witty captions? A research pro who can find the answer to any question in a matter of minutes? A speedy typist with a keen eye for detail?

Whatever your superpowers may be, make sure to highlight them in your gig applications and online profiles. Don't be afraid to toot your own horn and showcase the unique value you bring to the table.

If you feel like you're lacking in certain areas, don't worry! The beauty of virtual assistance and data entry is that there are plenty of online resources and training programs out there to help you level up your skills. Check out sites like Udemy (www.udemy.com), Skillshare (www.skillshare.com), and even YouTube for courses and tutorials on everything from Excel and WordPress to project management and customer service.

And of course, don't forget about the power of good old-fashioned practice and persistence. The more gigs you take on, the more you'll learn and grow as a VA or data entry pro. Don't be afraid to make mistakes, ask for feedback, and keep pushing yourself outside your comfort zone.

But most importantly, remember to take care of yourself along the way. Virtual assistance and data entry can be surprisingly demanding gigs, both mentally and physically. Make sure you're setting clear boundaries with your clients, taking regular breaks to stretch and rest your eyes, and carving out time for self-care and creative pursuits.

And if you ever start to feel overwhelmed or burnt out, don't hesitate to reach out to your fellow VAs and data entry warriors for support and guidance. There are so many amazing online communities and forums out there where you can connect with

like-minded folks, swap tips and stories, and even find new gig opportunities.

So, my dear friend, are you ready to join the ranks of the unsung heroes of the freelance world? Are you ready to put on your virtual cape and data entry goggles and take the gig economy by storm?

I thought so! Just remember, success in this field is not about being the flashiest or the most experienced. It's about being reliable, communicative, and always willing to go the extra mile for your clients.

And who knows? With a little bit of hustle and a lot of heart, you might just become the go-to VA or data entry dynamo that everyone is clamoring to work with. Stranger things have definitely happened!

Alright, my intrepid sidekicks, that's a wrap on Chapter 7. But don't go too far, because in the next chapter, we'll be exploring the wild and wacky world of online tutoring. Trust me, it's not just for stuffy academics anymore! So grab your virtual chalkboard and let's get ready to drop some knowledge bombs.

CREATE YOUR GIG PLACE

GIG ACTION LIST



GIG NAME:

\$\$ GOAL:

RESOURCES NEEDED:

WORK DETAILS

ACTION	DEADLINE	COMPLETED

CHAPTER 8

Sharing Your Wisdom: The World of Online Tutoring

Well, hello there, my brilliant friends! Welcome back to our whirlwind tour of the most exciting and rewarding survival gigs for artists and creatives. In our last chapter, we dove into the unsung heroics of virtual assistance and data entry. But today, we're going to explore a gig that combines the best of both worlds: the chance to share your knowledge and skills with eager learners, all while enjoying the freedom and flexibility of working online.

That's right, my friends, we're talking about online tutoring! Whether you're a math whiz, a grammar guru, or an art history aficionado, there are countless opportunities out there to turn your expertise into a thriving side hustle (or even a full-time gig).

But why should you consider online tutoring as an artist or creative? Well, for starters, it's a fantastic way to monetize your existing skills and passions. If you're a writer, you could tutor in English or creative writing. If you're a musician, you could offer lessons in theory or composition. If you're an actor, you could

coach aspiring thespians on audition techniques and scene study.

But beyond just the financial benefits, online tutoring can also be an incredibly rewarding and fulfilling experience. There's something truly special about being able to share your knowledge and inspire others to learn and grow. Plus, you never know when a tutoring gig might lead to a new creative collaboration, a long-term mentorship, or even a lifelong friendship.

Okay, okay, I know what you're thinking. "This all sounds great, but where do I even start? How do I find these mythical online tutoring gigs, and what if I don't have any teaching experience?"

Never fear, my curious compadre! Just like with any other survival gig, the key is to start with what you know and build from there. And luckily, there are plenty of online platforms and resources out there to help you get your tutoring career off the ground.

First, let's talk about some of the most popular and reputable online tutoring platforms:

- TutorMe (<https://tutorme.com/>): One of the largest and most diverse online tutoring platforms, TutorMe offers on-demand and scheduled sessions in over 300 subjects, from calculus to computer science to Chinese.
- Chegg (<https://www.chegg.com/tutors/become-a-tutor/>): Known for its textbook rental and online study services, Chegg also has a robust online tutoring

program that covers a wide range of academic subjects and test prep areas.

- » Wyzant (<https://www.wyzant.com/>): With a user-friendly platform and a strong emphasis on personalized learning, Wyzant is a great option for tutors looking to build long-term relationships with students and set their own rates.
- » TakeLessons (<https://takelessons.com/>): If you're a music, language, or arts tutor, TakeLessons is definitely worth checking out. They offer both online and in-person lessons, and their platform is specifically designed to showcase creative and performing arts teachers.
- » Skooli (<https://www.skooli.com/>): With a focus on K-12 and college-level subjects, Skooli offers a virtual classroom platform that allows for real-time video, audio, and text chat, as well as screen sharing and collaborative whiteboarding.

Of course, these are just a few examples of the many, many online tutoring platforms out there. Depending on your niche and teaching style, you might also want to explore options like Varsity Tutors (<https://www.varsitytutors.com/>), Tutor.com (<https://www.tutor.com/>), or even platforms like Outschool (<https://outschool.com/>) that focus on more creative and unconventional subjects.

So, how do you choose the right platform for you? Well, just like with any other gig, it's all about doing your research and knowing your strengths. Start by making a list of the subjects and skills you feel most confident teaching. Are you a history buff with a knack for making dry facts come alive? A math prodigy who can break down complex concepts into easy-to-understand steps? A language lover who can help students navigate the nuances of grammar and pronunciation?

Once you have a sense of your tutoring superpowers, start exploring the different platforms and see which ones align best with your expertise and teaching style. Look at factors like pay rates, scheduling flexibility, and the types of students and subjects they typically work with.

You'll also want to consider the technical requirements and support offered by each platform. Do you need a certain level of video or audio quality for your sessions? Does the platform provide a virtual classroom or whiteboarding tools, or will you need to use your own? What kind of training and resources do they offer for new tutors?

Don't be afraid to reach out to other tutors in your network or online communities to get their firsthand experiences and recommendations. They can offer valuable insights into the pros and cons of different platforms, as well as tips and tricks for succeeding as an online tutor.

Once you've chosen your platform (or platforms), it's time to create your tutor profile and start attracting those eager learn-

ers. And this is where that trusty roadmap from way back in Chapter 1 comes in handy once again!

Remember those big, bold goals and dreams you wrote down? The income targets, the time commitments, the resources you had at your disposal? Well, it's time to put them to work in your tutoring game plan.

Start by thinking about your ideal student and subject matter. What age range do you most enjoy working with? What topics get you fired up and excited to teach? What unique skills or perspectives do you bring to the (virtual) table?

Use these criteria to guide your profile creation and marketing efforts. Highlight your relevant education, experience, and passions in your bio and subject descriptions. Share student success stories or teaching philosophies that showcase your unique approach. And don't be afraid to let your personality shine through! Students (and their parents) are looking for tutors they can connect with on a human level, not just a walking, talking textbook.

As you start to build your tutoring schedule and clientele, make sure to refer back to those handy time and money goals you set for yourself. How many hours per week can you realistically dedicate to tutoring, given your other commitments and priorities? What hourly rate do you need to charge to meet your income targets and account for platform fees and taxes?

Don't be afraid to start small and gradually scale up as you gain experience and confidence. You might begin with just a few hours per week and a handful of regular students, but over time, you can expand your availability and subject offerings as your reputation grows.

And speaking of reputation, one of the most important things you can do as an online tutor is to prioritize student success and satisfaction. This means showing up prepared and on time for every session, actively listening to student needs and concerns, and going above and beyond to provide personalized support and feedback.

It also means being proactive about communication and problem-solving. If a student is struggling with a particular concept or falling behind on assignments, don't wait for them to come to you. Reach out with additional resources, practice problems, or even just a friendly check-in to see how you can help.

Remember, your students are not just paying for your subject expertise; they're investing in a relationship and a support system. The more you can show up as a caring, committed, and empathetic mentor, the more likely you are to build a loyal following and glowing reviews.

But of course, even the most dedicated tutors need to prioritize their own well-being and work-life balance. Make sure to set clear boundaries around your availability and communication preferences, and don't be afraid to say no to requests that stretch you too thin or compromise your values.

And just like with any other survival gig, it's important to have a solid self-care and creative outlet game plan in place. Whether it's carving out time for your own artistic pursuits, connecting with other tutors and creatives for support and inspiration, or simply taking regular breaks to rest and recharge, make sure you're filling your own cup so you can show up fully for your students.

Because here's the thing, my brilliant friends: online tutoring is not just a way to pay the bills or pass the time. It's an opportunity to make a real difference in someone's life, to spark a love of learning and discovery that can last a lifetime. It's a chance to be a role model, a cheerleader, and a catalyst for growth and transformation.

And who knows? By sharing your own unique blend of knowledge, creativity, and compassion with the world, you might just inspire the next generation of artists, innovators, and changemakers. Stranger things have definitely happened!

Alright, my wise and wonderful tutors-in-training, that's a wrap on Chapter 8. But don't wander off too far, because we've got one more exciting gig category to explore before we bring this wild and wacky journey to a close. In the next chapter, we'll be diving into the world of online course creation and all the incredible ways you can turn your skills and passions into profitable (and impactful) digital products. So grab your thinking caps and let's get ready to create some online magic!

CREATE YOUR GIG PLACE

GIG ACTION LIST



GIG NAME:

\$\$ GOAL:

RESOURCES NEEDED:

WORK DETAILS

ACTION	DEADLINE	COMPLETED

CHAPTER 9

Unlocking the Power of Sharing: Airbnb, Car Rentals, and Experiences

Well hello there, my savvy friends! We've explored so many exciting avenues for creative entrepreneurship and survival gigs, from freelance writing and virtual assisting to online tutoring and stock media. But today, we're going to dive into a world that's all about leveraging the power of sharing and hospitality to create unique income streams and unforgettable experiences.

That's right, we're talking about Airbnb rentals, car sharing, and creating your own tours and activities through platforms like Airbnb Experiences and TripAdvisor. These gigs are all about tapping into the growing sharing economy and using your existing assets - your home, your car, and your local knowledge - to create value for others and income for yourself.

Now, I know what some of you might be thinking. "But wait, I'm an artist, not a hotelier or a tour guide! What does this have to do with creative entrepreneurship?" Well, my friend, let me tell

you. The beauty of these gigs is that they allow you to showcase your creativity and hospitality in a whole new way, while also providing a flexible and potentially lucrative income stream to support your artistic pursuits.

Let's start with Airbnb rentals. If you have a spare room, a guest house, or even a whole apartment or home that you're not using full-time, you could be missing out on a major opportunity to generate passive income. By listing your space on Airbnb (<https://www.airbnb.com/>), you can tap into a global network of travelers and guests who are looking for unique, affordable, and locally-authentic accommodations.

But here's the thing - you don't have to be a professional interior designer or have a fancy, Instagram-worthy space to be a successful Airbnb host. In fact, what many guests are looking for is a clean, comfortable, and welcoming environment that reflects the local character and charm of your area. This is where your creativity and hospitality can really shine!

Think about ways you can add personal touches and amenities to your space that will make your guests feel at home. Maybe it's a handwritten welcome note, a basket of local treats and souvenirs, or a curated guidebook with your favorite local haunts and hidden gems. The more you can infuse your personality and passion into your hosting style, the more memorable and enjoyable the experience will be for your guests - and the more likely they are to leave you rave reviews and recommendations.

Now, I know the idea of opening up your home to strangers can be a bit daunting at first, especially if you're used to your privacy and personal space. But with a little bit of preparation and some clear boundaries and communication, hosting on Airbnb can be a fun and rewarding way to meet new people, share your local culture, and earn some extra cash on the side.

To get started, you'll want to create a compelling listing that showcases your space and your unique hosting style. This means taking high-quality photos, writing a clear and inviting description, and setting a competitive price that reflects the value and amenities you're offering. You'll also want to familiarize yourself with Airbnb's hosting policies and standards, and make sure you're in compliance with any local regulations or taxes.

But the fun doesn't stop there! If you have a car that you're not using all the time, you could also consider renting it out on platforms like Turo (<https://turo.com/>) or Getaround (<https://www.getaround.com/>). These car-sharing services allow you to list your vehicle for short-term rentals, giving you the flexibility to earn money from your car when you're not using it yourself.

Again, this is where your creativity and hospitality can come into play. Think about ways you can make your car rental experience stand out from the competition. Maybe it's including a personalized welcome kit with local snacks and recommendations, or offering flexible pickup and dropoff options to make your renters' lives easier. The more you can anticipate and exceed

your renters' needs, the more likely they are to choose your car and leave you positive feedback.

But perhaps the most exciting and immersive way to tap into the power of sharing is by creating your own tours and activities through platforms like Airbnb Experiences (www.airbnb.com/experiences) and TripAdvisor (<https://www.tripadvisor.com/>). These services allow you to share your local knowledge, skills, and passions with travelers and visitors from around the world, and get paid for your time and expertise.

The possibilities here are truly endless, and limited only by your imagination and interests. Maybe you're a passionate foodie who loves to take people on culinary adventures through your city's best hole-in-the-wall restaurants and food trucks. Maybe you're a street artist who wants to teach people the basics of graffiti and muralism. Or maybe you're a nature lover who knows all the best hiking trails and hidden waterfalls in your area.

Whatever your niche or expertise, there's likely a market of curious and adventurous travelers who would love to learn from you and experience your local culture in a unique and authentic way. The key is to create an experience that's engaging, informative, and memorable, and that showcases your personality and passion for your subject matter.

To get started with Airbnb Experiences or TripAdvisor, you'll need to create a compelling listing that describes your activity,

your qualifications, and what participants can expect. You'll also need to set a price that reflects the value and duration of your experience, and make sure you're in compliance with any local regulations or permits.

But once you've got your experience up and running, the rewards can be incredible - both financially and personally. You'll have the opportunity to meet people from all walks of life, share your knowledge and culture with others, and potentially even build a loyal following of fans and repeat customers.

Of course, as with any survival gig or entrepreneurial venture, there will be challenges and learning curves along the way. You'll need to be proactive about marketing your experiences, managing your bookings and communication, and ensuring a high quality and safe experience for your participants. You may also need to invest in some basic equipment or supplies, depending on the nature of your activity.

But with a little bit of creativity, passion, and perseverance, the world of Airbnb rentals, car sharing, and experiences can be an incredibly rewarding and lucrative way to support your artistic dreams and share your gifts with the world.

And remember, as with any survival gig, it's important to stay true to your values and priorities, and not let the hustle overshadow your creative pursuits or personal well-being. Use these gigs as a means to an end, a way to buy yourself time and freedom to focus on your art and your passions.

So go ahead, my adventurous friend. Embrace the power of sharing, and see where it takes you. Who knows, you may just discover a whole new side of yourself - and a whole new income stream - in the process.

And as always, don't forget to refer back to that trusty roadmap we created in Chapter 1. Make sure your Airbnb, car sharing, and experience gigs align with your bigger goals and vision for your life and career. Set realistic targets for your earnings and your time commitment, and make sure you're building in plenty of space for rest, play, and creative rejuvenation.

Because at the end of the day, the most successful and fulfilling survival gigs are the ones that feed your soul as well as your bank account. So keep dreaming, keep exploring, and keep sharing your unique light with the world, one rental, one ride, and one unforgettable experience at a time.

Your fellow adventurer in the sharing economy!

CREATE YOUR GIG PLACE

GIG ACTION LIST



GIG NAME:

\$\$ GOAL:

RESOURCES NEEDED:

WORK DETAILS

ACTION	DEADLINE	COMPLETED

Capturing Creativity: Selling Stock Photos and Videos Online

Welcome back, my fantastic friends! In our last chapter, we explored the rewarding world of online tutoring and how sharing your knowledge and skills can not only pay the bills but also make a meaningful impact on others' lives. But today, we're shifting gears and diving into a gig that's all about capturing and monetizing those magical, fleeting moments of inspiration and beauty.

That's right, my fellow artists and creatives, we're talking about selling stock photos and videos online! Whether you're a seasoned shutterbug or just starting to explore the wonders of visual storytelling, there's never been a better time to turn your passion for photography and videography into a thriving side hustle (or even a full-time career).

But why stock media, you ask? Well, my curious friend, let me tell you. In today's digital age, businesses, bloggers, and

content creators of all stripes are in constant need of high-quality, eye-catching visuals to enhance their websites, social media posts, marketing materials, and more. And rather than spending hours (or even days) setting up and shooting their own photos and videos, many of them turn to stock media sites to find the perfect images and clips quickly and easily.

And that's where you come in, my talented friend. By uploading your own unique and creative photos and videos to these stock media platforms, you can tap into a global market of potential buyers and start earning passive income from your artistic talents. Plus, you never know when your work might end up being featured in a major ad campaign, news article, or even a Hollywood movie! (Okay, that last one might be a bit of a stretch, but hey, a creative can dream, right?)

Now, I know what you might be thinking. "But wait, don't I need a fancy camera and a ton of expensive gear to create stock-worthy photos and videos?" Well, my budget-conscious buddy, I've got some good news for you. While having professional-grade equipment can certainly help you up your game, it's by no means a requirement for getting started in the stock media world.

In fact, with the incredible advances in smartphone camera technology and affordable editing software, you can create stunning, high-quality photos and videos with just your phone and a few key accessories (like a tripod, some basic lighting, and a few props). The key is to focus on developing your eye for

composition, your technical skills, and your unique creative vision.

Okay, so you're convinced and ready to start snapping and filming your way to stock media stardom. But where do you even begin? How do you know which platforms to use, what kinds of content to create, and how to actually make money from your work?

Never fear, my aspiring stock media mogul! Just like with any other survival gig, the key is to start with what you know and love, and build from there. And luckily, there are plenty of amazing stock media platforms out there that cater to a wide range of niches, styles, and skill levels.

Let's take a look at some of the most popular and lucrative options:

1. Shutterstock (<https://www.shutterstock.com/>): One of the biggest and most well-known stock media sites, Shutterstock offers a huge range of photos, videos, and illustrations from contributors around the world. They have a solid commission structure and a user-friendly upload process, making it a great option for both new and experienced creators.
2. Getty Images (<https://www.gettyimages.com/workwithus>): Another top player in the stock media game, Getty Images is known for its high-end, editorial-style content and

exclusive partnerships with major brands and publications. While their acceptance process can be a bit more selective, the payouts and exposure opportunities are definitely worth it for more advanced photographers and videographers.

3. iStock (<https://www.istockphoto.com/contributor>): Owned by Getty Images, iStock is a more affordable and accessible alternative for businesses and individuals looking for stock media. They offer a variety of commission structures and have a large, engaged community of contributors and buyers.
4. Adobe Stock (<https://stock.adobe.com/contribute>): If you're already using Adobe software like Photoshop or Premiere for your creative work, Adobe Stock could be a great fit for you. Their platform seamlessly integrates with other Adobe tools, making it easy to upload and manage your content. Plus, their royalty rates are some of the highest in the industry.
5. Pond5 (<https://www.pond5.com/sell-stock-footage>): For videographers and filmmakers, Pond5 is definitely worth checking out. They specialize in high-quality video content and offer a range of licensing options and commission structures. Plus, their platform is super user-friendly and makes it easy to track your sales and earnings.

Of course, these are just a few examples of the many, many stock media platforms out there. Depending on your niche and creative style, you might also want to explore options like Alamy (www.alamy.com), Dreamstime (www.dreamstime.com), or even niche sites like Offset (<https://www.offset.com/>) for more artistic and high-end content.

So, how do you choose the right platform (or platforms) for you? Well, just like with any other gig, it's all about doing your research and experimenting to see what works best for your goals and workflow. Start by browsing each site's collections and contributor guidelines to get a sense of the types of content they accept and the overall vibe of their community.

Pay attention to factors like royalty rates, exclusivity requirements, and the level of support and resources provided for contributors. Some sites may require you to submit a certain number of photos or videos for review before accepting you as a contributor, while others have a more open and automated upload process.

You'll also want to consider the technical requirements and file formats accepted by each platform. Do they have specific guidelines for image size, resolution, and metadata? Do they accept raw files or only JPEGs? What about video codecs and frame rates? Make sure to read through each site's contributor documentation carefully to ensure your content meets their standards.

Once you've chosen your platform(s), it's time to start building your portfolio and optimizing your content for maximum sales potential. And this is where that handy-dandy roadmap from way back in Chapter 1 comes in clutch yet again!

Remember those big, hairy, audacious goals you set for yourself? The income targets, the creative aspirations, the lifestyle dreams? Well, it's time to put them to work in your stock media strategy.

Start by thinking about the types of photos and videos that align with your unique skills, passions, and artistic vision. Are you a nature lover with an eye for breathtaking landscapes? A street photographer with a knack for capturing candid moments of joy and connection? A food videographer with a talent for making even the simplest dishes look mouthwatering?

Use these strengths and interests to guide your content creation and portfolio building efforts. Don't just shoot generic, "stocky" looking images and videos that blend in with the crowd. Instead, focus on developing your own unique style and perspective that sets you apart and attracts the right kind of buyers and clients.

As you start uploading your work to your chosen platform(s), make sure to optimize your titles, descriptions, and keywords for search visibility and relevance. Think like a buyer and use language that accurately and compellingly describes the content and mood of each photo or video.

You'll also want to pay attention to trends and seasonal themes that can help boost your sales. Are there certain holidays, events, or cultural moments coming up that might inspire relevant content ideas? Can you tap into popular visual styles or aesthetics that are resonating with buyers and audiences right now?

Of course, as with any creative endeavor, the key to success in the stock media world is consistency and persistence. You can't just upload a handful of photos or videos and expect the sales to start rolling in. Building a thriving stock media business takes time, effort, and a willingness to keep learning and growing as an artist.

Make a commitment to regularly shooting, editing, and uploading new content to your portfolio, even if it's just a few pieces per week. The more high-quality, diverse, and up-to-date your collection is, the more likely you are to attract buyers and generate consistent sales over time.

And don't be afraid to experiment and take creative risks along the way! Some of the most successful stock media contributors are the ones who push the boundaries and offer something fresh, unique, and unexpected. Whether it's a quirky conceptual photo series, a breathtaking aerial video shot with a drone, or a powerful social justice-themed image collection, there's always room for innovation and originality in this field.

But of course, even the most passionate and prolific stock media creators need to take care of themselves and their artistic well-

being. It's easy to get caught up in the hustle and grind of constantly producing and uploading new content, but remember to prioritize your own creative fulfillment and mental health along the way.

Make sure to carve out time for personal projects, creative exploration, and just good old-fashioned play and experimentation. Collaborate with other artists and photographers in your community, attend workshops and conferences to learn new skills and perspectives, and don't forget to celebrate your wins and milestones along the way.

Because here's the thing, my brilliant and beautiful friends: selling stock photos and videos online is not just a way to make some extra cash or boost your creative portfolio. It's an opportunity to share your unique vision and voice with the world, to inspire and connect with others through the power of visual storytelling.

And who knows? By putting your heart and soul into your stock media hustle, you might just become the next big thing in the world of commercial photography and videography. Stranger things have definitely happened!

Alright, my wild and wonderful content creators, that's a wrap on Chapter 9. Can you believe we've already explored so many amazing survival gigs and creative side hustles? From freelance writing to virtual assisting to online tutoring and beyond, you now have a whole toolbox of strategies and platforms to help

you turn your artistic talents into a sustainable and fulfilling career.

But don't worry, we're not quite done yet! In the next chapter, we'll be diving into a few final thoughts and tips for making the most of your creative journey, no matter where it takes you. So grab a celebratory beverage of your choice, take a moment to pat yourself on the back for all the incredible work you've done so far, and let's bring this party home in style!

CREATE YOUR GIG PLACE

GIG ACTION LIST



GIG NAME:

\$\$ GOAL:

RESOURCES NEEDED:

WORK DETAILS

ACTION	DEADLINE	COMPLETED

Mastering the Miscellaneous: Odd Jobs and Creative Hustles

Well, well, well, my intrepid adventurers! Can you believe we've made it all the way to the final chapter of our epic survival gig journey? From the humble beginnings of freelance writing and virtual assisting to the dizzying heights of online tutoring and stock media stardom, we've certainly covered a lot of ground and explored a wide range of creative side hustles.

But before we ride off into the sunset and declare our quest complete, there are still a few more opportunities and strategies I want to share with you. Because let's face it, when it comes to making a living as an artist or creative, sometimes you have to think outside the box and be open to trying new things.

And that's exactly what this chapter is all about: embracing the odd, the unconventional, and the downright bizarre ways to turn your talents and passions into cold, hard cash (or at least enough to keep the lights on and the inspiration flowing).

So, without further ado, let's dive into some of the most interesting and unexpected survival gigs out there!

1. Online Surveys and Market Research Okay, I know what you're thinking. "Surveys? Really? That sounds about as exciting as watching paint dry." But hear me out, my skeptical friend. While filling out online surveys and participating in market research studies may not be the most glamorous or creatively fulfilling gig out there, it can actually be a surprisingly easy and low-effort way to earn a little extra cash on the side.

There are plenty of reputable websites and platforms out there that will pay you for your opinions and insights on everything from new products and services to political issues and pop culture trends. Some popular options include:

- » Swagbucks (<https://www.swagbucks.com/>)
- » Survey Junkie (<https://www.surveyjunkie.com/>)
- » Opinion Outpost (<https://www.opinionoutpost.com/>)
- » Vindale Research (<https://www.vindale.com/>)

Of course, the key to making the most of these opportunities is to be strategic and selective about which surveys and studies you participate in. Look for ones that align with your interests and expertise, and that offer fair compensation for your time and effort. And be sure to read the fine print and protect your

personal information, as there are definitely some scams and shady operators out there.

2. **Website and App Testing** If you're the kind of person who loves to poke around on new websites and apps and offer your two cents on what works and what doesn't, then website and app testing might just be the perfect gig for you. Basically, companies and developers will pay you to test out their digital products and provide feedback on everything from usability and design to content and overall user experience.

Some popular platforms for finding website and app testing gigs include:

- » UserTesting (<https://www.usertesting.com/>)
- » Testbirds (<https://www.testbirds.com/>)
- » Respondent (<https://www.respondent.io/>)
- » Userfeel (<https://www.userfeel.com/>)

The great thing about this gig is that it can be both fun and intellectually stimulating, as you get to explore new technologies and interfaces and put your critical thinking skills to work. Plus, the pay is often quite decent for the amount of time and effort involved (usually around \$10-20 per test, which can take anywhere from a few minutes to an hour).

3. **Selling Handmade or Vintage Items Online** If you're the crafty or creative type who loves to make beautiful, one-of-

a-kind items by hand (or if you have a knack for finding and curating vintage treasures), then selling your wares online could be a great way to turn your passion into profit. With the rise of e-commerce and online marketplaces, it's never been easier to reach a global audience of potential customers and build a thriving handmade or vintage business from the comfort of your own home.

Some of the most popular platforms for selling handmade or vintage items include:

- » Etsy (<https://www.etsy.com/>)
- » Amazon Handmade (<https://www.amazon.com/handmade>)
- » Shopify (<https://www.shopify.com/>)
- » eBay (<https://www.ebay.com/>)

Of course, the key to success in this arena is to have a unique and high-quality product, as well as a strong brand identity and marketing strategy. You'll need to invest time and effort into photographing your items, writing compelling descriptions, and promoting your shop through social media and other channels. But if you can build a loyal customer base and generate consistent sales, the rewards can be both financially and creatively fulfilling.

4. Participating in the Gig Economy Finally, if you're looking for a more flexible and dynamic way to earn money on the side,

then participating in the gig economy might be the way to go. From ride-sharing and delivery services to freelance labor and odd jobs, there are countless ways to leverage your skills, assets, and availability to generate income on your own terms.

Some popular gig economy platforms and opportunities include:

- » Uber (<https://www.uber.com/>) and Lyft (<https://www.lyft.com/>) for ride-sharing
- » DoorDash (<https://www.doordash.com/>), Postmates (<https://postmates.com/>), and Instacart (<https://www.instacart.com/>) for food and grocery delivery
- » TaskRabbit (<https://www.taskrabbit.com/>) and Thumbtack (<https://www.thumbtack.com/>) for freelance labor and odd jobs
- » Rover (<https://www.rover.com/>) and Wag (<https://wagwalking.com/>) for pet-sitting and dog-walking

The great thing about the gig economy is that you can often set your own schedule, choose the types of tasks and jobs you want to take on, and work as much or as little as you want depending on your goals and availability. Of course, it's important to be realistic about the earning potential and to factor in expenses like gas, vehicle maintenance, and taxes. But for many artists and creatives, the flexibility and variety of the gig economy can

be a great way to supplement their income and fund their passions.

So, there you have it, my friends! Four more unexpected and unconventional ways to make money as an artist or creative. But of course, this is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to survival gigs and side hustles.

The truth is, there are countless opportunities out there for those who are willing to think creatively, take risks, and put themselves out there. From teaching workshops and classes to offering consulting services to creating and selling digital products, the possibilities are truly endless.

But no matter which path you choose, remember to always come back to that trusty roadmap we created way back in Chapter 1. You know, the one with your big, bold dreams and goals, your time and money targets, and your unique creative superpowers?

Use that roadmap as your guiding light, your north star, as you navigate the wild and wonderful world of survival gigs and creative entrepreneurship. Remember to stay true to your values and passions, to prioritize your physical and mental health, and to surround yourself with a supportive community of fellow artists and dreamers.

Because here's the thing, my brilliant and brave friends. Making a living as an artist or creative is not for the faint of heart. It takes

guts, grit, and a whole lot of hustle to turn your talents and passions into a sustainable and fulfilling career.

But it's also one of the most rewarding and meaningful journeys you can embark on in this wild and precious life. To wake up every day and know that you're doing what you love, what you're meant to do, what makes you come alive - that's a gift beyond measure.

So keep going, keep dreaming, keep creating, and keep hustling, my fellow travelers. The world needs your unique voice, your bold vision, your daring and audacious spirit.

And who knows? With a little bit of luck, a lot of heart, and a whole lot of survival gigs under your belt, you just might become the next big thing, the next cultural icon, the next creative revolutionary.

Stranger things have definitely happened. 😊

PART III

Putting It All Together

Alright, my friends, we've had quite the journey together, haven't we? From the early days of figuring out our passions and setting our intentions, to the wild and wonderful world of survival gigs and creative side hustles, we've covered a lot of ground and learned a ton along the way.

But now, it's time to take all of that knowledge, all of that experience, all of that hard-earned wisdom, and put it into action. Because let's face it, dreaming and scheming and exploring is all well and good, but at some point, you've got to roll up your sleeves, take a deep breath, and actually start building the life and career you want.

And that's exactly what this final section of the book is all about: putting all the pieces together, creating a plan of action, and taking those first bold steps towards your big, bright, beautiful future.

I remember when I first started on this journey, all those years ago. I had just sold my restaurant, and I was feeling lost, confused, and more than a little terrified. I knew I wanted to

pursue my passions, to create a life that was truly my own, but I had no idea where to start or how to make it happen.

So I did what any sensible person would do: I panicked. I spent countless hours scrolling through job boards and freelance sites, taking on whatever gigs I could find, and generally running myself ragged trying to keep all the balls in the air.

But slowly, bit by bit, I started to find my footing. I started to get clearer on my goals and my values, on the kinds of work that truly lit me up and the kinds of clients and collaborators I wanted to work with. I started to build a network of supportive friends and mentors, people who believed in me and my vision and who were always there to lend an ear or a helping hand.

And most importantly, I started to trust myself. To listen to that still, small voice inside that knew, even when I doubted it, that I was on the right path, that I was exactly where I needed to be, doing exactly what I needed to do.

It wasn't always easy, of course. There were plenty of setbacks and challenges along the way, moments when I wanted to give up and go back to the safety and security of a "normal" job. But every time I felt that fear creeping in, I would remind myself of why I started on this journey in the first place: to create a life that was truly my own, to use my gifts and talents to make a difference in the world, to wake up every day feeling excited and energized and alive.

And bit by bit, day by day, gig by gig, I started to build that life. I started to see the pieces coming together, the puzzle taking shape, the vision becoming reality. And let me tell you, my friends, there is no feeling in the world quite like it.

So if you're reading this now, if you've made it this far on your own journey, I want you to know that you're not alone. That there is a whole community of artists and creatives and dreamers out there who are rooting for you, who believe in you, who know that you have something special and valuable to offer the world.

And I also want you to know that the journey is never over. That there will always be new challenges and opportunities and adventures waiting around the bend. But with the tools and strategies and mindsets you've learned in this book, with the network and support system you've built along the way, you'll be ready to face whatever comes your way with courage, resilience, and a whole lot of creative moxie.

So take a deep breath, my friends. Take a moment to celebrate how far you've come and all the incredible things you've accomplished so far. And then, when you're ready, let's dive in and start putting all the pieces together.

Your big, bright, beautiful future is waiting for you. Let's go get it!

CHAPTER 12

Creating Your Ultimate Survival Gig Plan

Alright, my creative compadres, it's time to get down to business and start putting all of these survival gig strategies and ideas into action! Because let's face it, as much as we love dreaming and scheming and exploring all the possibilities, at some point, we've got to actually start making things happen, right?

And that's exactly what this chapter is all about: taking all of the knowledge and inspiration you've gained so far and turning it into a concrete, actionable plan for building the creative career and lifestyle of your dreams.

Now, I know what some of you might be thinking. "But wait, I'm not a planner! I'm an artist, a free spirit, a go-with-the-flow kind of person!" And believe me, I get it. I've definitely had my moments of resistance and rebellion when it comes to structure and organization.

But here's the thing, my friends. If you want to truly thrive as a creative entrepreneur, if you want to build a sustainable and

fulfilling career on your own terms, then you need to have some kind of roadmap to guide you along the way. Because otherwise, it's all too easy to get sidetracked, overwhelmed, or just plain lost in the hustle.

So, how do you create your ultimate survival gig plan? Well, the first step is to go back to that trusty roadmap we created way back in Chapter 1, and remind yourself of your big, bold, audacious goals and dreams. What kind of lifestyle do you want to create? What kind of income do you need to sustain yourself and your art? What kind of impact do you want to make in the world?

Take some time to really visualize and connect with those goals, and then start breaking them down into smaller, more manageable chunks. For example, if your big goal is to make a full-time living as a freelance writer within the next year, then your smaller goals might be things like:

- » Building a strong portfolio of writing samples in your chosen niche
- » Pitching and landing X number of new clients each month
- » Increasing your rates and revenue by X% each quarter
- » Investing in skills and training to improve your craft and marketability

Once you have your goals broken down into bite-sized pieces, it's time to start mapping out the specific actions and strategies you'll need to take to make them happen. And this is where all of those survival gig ideas and platforms we've explored throughout this book come in handy!

Take a look at your skills, interests, and experiences, and start brainstorming which gigs and opportunities might be the best fit for you and your goals. Maybe you're a talented photographer with a knack for capturing stunning landscapes, so selling stock photos and prints online could be a great way to generate passive income. Or maybe you're a language lover with a gift for teaching, so offering online tutoring or courses could be a rewarding and lucrative path.

The key is to choose survival gigs that align with your strengths, your values, and your bigger vision for your creative life. Don't just chase after the shiniest or trendiest opportunities, but really take the time to consider what feels authentic and meaningful to you.

Once you've identified a few key gigs and platforms to focus on, it's time to start putting together a specific plan of action. This might include things like:

- » Setting specific income and time goals for each gig (e.g. "I will earn \$X per month from freelance writing, working X hours per week")

- » Creating a content calendar or pitching schedule to keep yourself on track and accountable
- » Building a network of clients, collaborators, and mentors to support you along the way
- » Investing in the tools, resources, and training you need to level up your skills and streamline your workflow

Now, I know this might all sound a bit overwhelming at first, especially if you're not used to thinking in such structured and strategic terms. But trust me, my friends, having a clear and focused plan of action is absolutely essential if you want to turn your creative dreams into a sustainable reality.

And the beauty of it is, once you have that plan in place, you can start to relax and enjoy the journey a bit more. Because you'll know exactly what you need to do each day, each week, each month to keep moving forward and making progress towards your goals.

Of course, that doesn't mean your plan has to be rigid or inflexible. In fact, one of the most important skills you can develop as a creative entrepreneur is the ability to adapt and pivot when necessary. Because let's face it, life has a way of throwing curveballs and unexpected challenges our way, and the more resilient and agile we can be, the better.

So as you start implementing your survival gig plan, make sure to leave room for experimentation, iteration, and even failure along the way. Don't be afraid to try new things, to take

calculated risks, and to learn from your mistakes. Because that's how we grow and evolve as artists and as humans.

And above all, remember to stay connected to your why, to the bigger vision and purpose that drives you forward. Because when the going gets tough (and it will, from time to time), it's that deep sense of meaning and passion that will keep you motivated and inspired to keep showing up and doing the work.

So, my creative friends, are you ready to start building your ultimate survival gig plan? Are you ready to take the reins of your own creative destiny and start making your dreams a reality, one gig at a time?

I thought so! So grab your notebook, your favorite beverage, and a whole lot of enthusiasm, and let's get planning. Your big, bright, beautiful future is waiting for you, and I can't wait to see what incredible things you create along the way.

And remember, if you ever start to feel stuck or overwhelmed or just plain lost in the process, don't hesitate to reach out for support and guidance. Whether it's hiring a coach or mentor, joining a mastermind or accountability group, or just reaching out to a trusted friend or collaborator, having a supportive network can make all the difference in your creative journey.

Because here's the thing, my friends. We're all in this together. We're all part of a bigger community of artists and dreamers and visionaries who are daring to create lives and careers on our own terms. And when we lift each other up, when we share our

knowledge and our resources and our love, there's no limit to what we can achieve.

So let's keep dreaming and scheming and planning and hustling, together. The world needs our creativity, our courage, and our big, bold, beautiful visions now more than ever. And with a little bit of grit, a lot of heart, and a killer survival gig plan in hand, I have no doubt that you'll be unstoppable.

Let's do this!

Key Resources Again:



GET CLEAR WHY

*Identify your dream,
needs and resources available....*



YOUR WHY :

WHEN WILL YOU START (COMMIT):

GOAL DEADLINE (PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDER):

When can you do the work ?

Finacial Goal

How much time are you willing to dedicate?

How much \$\$ can you invest ?



my Dream life

WRITE YOU WHY HERE

INCOME GOAL

RESOURCES TO SPEND / HOUR TO DEDICATE

YOUR ROAD MAP TO SUCCESS

GIG PUZZLE



WHY / DREAM:	\$\$ GOAL:
COMPLETION DATE GOAL :	HRS AVAILABLE:

YOUR PUZZLE

YOUR LIST OF GIGS	HOURS DEDICATED	\$\$ GOAL
TOTAL TIME & \$\$		

SHOULD EQUAL NUMBERS
FROM ABOVE

CREATE YOUR GIG PLACE

GIG ACTION LIST



GIG NAME:

\$\$ GOAL:

RESOURCES NEEDED:

WORK DETAILS

ACTION	DEADLINE	COMPLETED

GIG BREAKDOWN LIST

USE "YOUR" IDENTIFIED GIGS ON GIG PUZZLE WORKSHEET

Ultimate
Survival Pig
LEGIT REMOTE INCOME

WHY / DREAM:		AVAILABLE TIME: WEEKLY OR MONTH	
INCOME GOAL: (FROM BUDGET WORKSHEET)		RESOURCES : (INVESTMENT)	
GIG	TIME	INCOME	RESOURCES
TEACH ENGLISH	12.5 HRS / WEEK MIN MORNINGS & EVENINGS HOURS AVAILABLE 70 +	\$20 / HR AV \$500 - 5600 (CERTAIN)	\$15 - 50
WRITE	5 HRS WEEK MIN FLEXIBLE DEADLINE DRIVEN	MIN \$75 A MO \$2500 + MO (POTENTIAL)	\$50 -100
FREELANCER	10 HRS / WEEK MIN 30 + AVERAGE FLEX - DEADLINE	\$500 / WEEK \$10, 000 MO (POTENTIAL)	\$200 MIN
VIRTUAL ASSISTANT	10 HRS / WEEK MIN DEADLINE DRIVEN	\$12 / HR MIN \$40+ / HOUR (POTENTIAL)	\$15
VOICE OVER	5 HRS / WEEK MIN DEADLINE DRIVE	MIN \$40 A MO \$1000 - 5000 + (POTENTIAL)	\$400 - 500 (MIN)
DATA ENTRY	5 HRS / WEEK MIN	\$10 - 25 / HOUR AVE (CERTAIN)	\$15-25
TOUR GUIDE	10 HRS / WEEK MIN SPECIFIC HOURS BUT YOU CHOOSE THEM	\$100 / WEEK \$10,000 + MO (POTENTIAL)	\$100 - 200
USE YOUR RESOURCES	3 HRS / WEEK MIN COMMUNICATION TIME NEEDED	\$300 / MO MIN \$1500 + MO (POTENTIAL)	\$100 - 200

Ultimate
Survival Pig
LEGIT REMOTE INCOME

CHAPTER 13

Managing Your Finances and Taxes

Alright, my friends, we've reached the final chapter of our journey together. And I know what you might be thinking - "Finances and taxes? Really? That's how we're going to wrap up this epic adventure in creative entrepreneurship?"

But hear me out, because as much as we all love the thrill of the hustle and the joy of the creative process, there's one thing that can make or break our success in the long run: how we manage our money.

I know, I know. It's not the sexiest topic in the world. But if you want to build a truly sustainable and fulfilling creative career, one that allows you to thrive both financially and artistically, then you absolutely need to have a solid handle on your finances.

So, let's dive in and break it down, shall we?

First things first: budgeting and financial planning. This is the foundation of any successful freelance or entrepreneurial

venture, and it's especially critical when you're juggling multiple survival gigs and income streams.

The key is to have a clear and realistic picture of your monthly income and expenses, so you can make informed decisions about how to allocate your resources and plan for the future. This might include:

- » Tracking your income from each of your survival gigs and creative projects
- » Categorizing your expenses into fixed costs (like rent or insurance) and variable costs (like supplies or marketing)
- » Setting aside a portion of your income for taxes, savings, and investments
- » Creating a budget that aligns with your financial goals and values
- » Regularly reviewing and adjusting your plan as your income and needs change over time

Now, I know that budgeting and financial planning can feel overwhelming, especially if you're not naturally a "numbers person." But the good news is, there are tons of amazing tools and resources out there to help you get started and stay on track.

From simple spreadsheets and budgeting apps to more robust software like QuickBooks or FreshBooks, there's no shortage of options to help you manage your money like a pro. And if you

really want to level up your financial game, you might even consider working with a bookkeeper, accountant, or financial planner who specializes in creative entrepreneurs.

But beyond just tracking and planning, there's another critical piece of the financial puzzle that every creative entrepreneur needs to master: invoicing and getting paid.

Because let's face it, as much as we love our craft and our clients, we're not in this game just for the warm fuzzy feelings. We need to get paid, and paid well, for the value we bring to the table.

So, how do you make sure you're getting paid what you're worth? Here are a few key strategies:

- » Always use a written contract or agreement that clearly outlines your scope of work, deliverables, timeline, and payment terms
- » Invoice promptly and professionally, using a tool like PayPal, Stripe, or Wave to make it easy for clients to pay you online
- » Set clear expectations around payment schedules and follow up politely but firmly if payments are late or missing
- » Consider offering incentives for early payment or penalties for late payment to encourage clients to prioritize your invoices

- » Don't be afraid to negotiate your rates or walk away from clients who don't value your work or respect your time

Of course, getting paid is just one piece of the financial puzzle. Another critical component that every creative entrepreneur needs to stay on top of? Taxes.

I know, I know. It's the dreaded "T" word. But trust me, my friends, as someone who's been through the ups and downs of self-employment and creative entrepreneurship, I can tell you firsthand that ignoring your taxes is a recipe for disaster.

So, what do you need to know? First and foremost, as a freelancer or self-employed individual, you're responsible for paying your own taxes, including self-employment tax (which covers your Social Security and Medicare contributions) and income tax (which is based on your total earnings for the year).

This means you'll need to set aside a portion of your income each month to cover your estimated tax payments, which are typically due quarterly. And you'll also need to keep detailed records of your income and expenses throughout the year, so you can accurately report your earnings and deductions come tax time.

Now, I know that dealing with taxes can feel like a daunting and confusing task, especially if you're used to having an employer handle all of that for you. But again, there are plenty of resources and tools out there to help you navigate the process.

From online tax calculators and filing software to accountants and tax professionals who specialize in working with freelancers and creative entrepreneurs, there's no shortage of support available. And trust me, investing in a little bit of professional help can go a long way in saving you time, stress, and potential headaches down the road.

But beyond just staying compliant with the tax man, there's one more critical piece of the financial puzzle that I want to touch on before we wrap up this chapter: investing in your future.

Because here's the thing, my friends. As creative entrepreneurs, we have the incredible opportunity to build not just a career, but a life and a legacy that's truly our own. And part of that means thinking long-term and making smart financial decisions that will set us up for success and security in the years to come.

So, what does that look like? It might mean:

- » Setting aside a portion of your income each month for retirement savings, whether that's through a traditional IRA, a Roth IRA, or a solo 401(k) plan
- » Investing in your skills and education, whether that's through workshops, courses, coaching, or other professional development opportunities
- » Building up an emergency fund to cover unexpected expenses or income disruptions

- » Exploring other passive income streams or investment opportunities that align with your values and goals
- » Working with a financial planner or advisor to create a comprehensive, long-term strategy for your money

Again, I know that thinking about the future and making big financial decisions can feel overwhelming, especially when you're just trying to keep your head above water in the day-to-day hustle. But trust me, my friends, the earlier you start planning and investing in your future, the more freedom and flexibility you'll have down the road.

And isn't that what this whole creative entrepreneurship journey is all about? Building a life and a career that allows us to thrive on our own terms, to create and contribute and make a difference in the world, without sacrificing our financial security or peace of mind?

So, as we wrap up this chapter and this book, I want to leave you with one final piece of advice: don't be afraid to take control of your finances and your future. Don't let fear or confusion or overwhelm hold you back from making smart, proactive choices about your money.

Because at the end of the day, your financial health is just as important as your creative health. And when you have a solid foundation of financial planning, budgeting, and investing in place, you'll have the freedom and the confidence to truly soar in your creative pursuits.

So, my friends, are you ready to take that final leap? Are you ready to not just survive, but thrive as a creative entrepreneur?

I thought so. Let's do this!

CONCLUSION



Well, my friends, here we are. The end of the road, the final pages of this incredible journey we've been on together. Can you believe it?

When I first set out to write this book, I didn't know exactly where it would take us. I just knew that I had a story to tell, a message to share, and a burning desire to help other creative souls find their way in this wild and wonderful world.

And what a journey it's been! From the early days of figuring out our passions and our purpose, to the nitty-gritty details of budgeting and taxes, we've covered a lot of ground and learned a ton along the way.

But through it all, there's been one common thread, one guiding light that's kept us moving forward: the power of creativity, resilience, and community.

You see, when I first started my own creative entrepreneurship journey all those years ago, I didn't have a roadmap or a guide. I didn't have a network of supportive friends and mentors cheering me on from the sidelines. I was just a girl with a dream, a laptop, and a whole lot of determination.

And let me tell you, there were plenty of moments when I wanted to give up. Moments when the rejection letters piled up, the bank account dwindled, and the self-doubt crept in. Moments when I questioned everything I was doing and wondered if I was crazy for even trying.

But something kept me going, even in the darkest of times. And that something was the spark of creativity that burned deep inside me, the unshakeable belief that I had something valuable to offer the world, and the knowledge that I wasn't alone in this struggle.

Because the truth is, my friends, no matter how isolated or uncertain we may feel at times, we are all part of a bigger community of artists, dreamers, and visionaries. We are all connected by our shared passion for creating something meaningful and beautiful in this world, and by our willingness to do the hard work and face the challenges that come with pursuing our dreams.

And that's what this book has been all about: tapping into that community, learning from each other's experiences and wisdom, and building the practical skills and strategies we need to turn our creative visions into sustainable realities.

Whether you're a writer, a painter, a musician, or any other kind of creative soul, know that you have something unique and valuable to offer the world. Know that your voice matters, your story matters, and your dreams matter.

And know that you don't have to do it alone.

Because here's the thing, my friends. When we come together as a community, when we support and uplift and inspire each other, there's no limit to what we can achieve. We can weather any storm, overcome any obstacle, and create a life and a world that's more beautiful, more just, and more joyful than we ever could have imagined.

So as we close the pages of this book and step out into the next chapter of our own stories, I want to leave you with a few final words of encouragement and inspiration.

Keep dreaming. Keep creating. Keep showing up, even when it's hard, even when you're tired, even when the road ahead seems long and uncertain.

Surround yourself with people who believe in you, who challenge you, and who remind you of your own strength and brilliance. Seek out mentors, collaborators, and friends who will

walk beside you on this journey and help you navigate the twists and turns along the way.

Take care of yourself, your body, your mind, and your spirit. Nurture your creativity with rest, play, and joy, and don't be afraid to set boundaries and say no to the things that drain you or hold you back.

And most importantly, trust the journey. Trust that every experience, every struggle, every triumph is shaping you into the artist and the human you're meant to be. Trust that your unique voice and vision have a place in this world, and that by showing up and doing the work, you're making a difference in ways you may never even know.

As for me, I'll keep doing what I've always done: writing, dreaming, and connecting with amazing souls like you. Because if there's one thing I've learned on this wild and wonderful journey, it's that we're all in this together, and that our stories and our voices are more powerful than we could ever imagine.

So here's to you, my brave and brilliant friends. Here's to the next chapter, the next adventure, the next opportunity to create and connect and make a difference in this world.

I'll be cheering you on every step of the way.

With all my love and gratitude,

Theron

RESOURCES

Congratulations on making it to the end of "The Ultimate Survival Gig: How to Create Your Dream Life and Income from Anywhere"! I hope this book has inspired you, empowered you, and given you the tools and strategies you need to build a thriving creative career on your own terms.

But remember, the learning and the growth don't stop here. In fact, they're just beginning. That's why I've put together this comprehensive list of resources to help you continue your journey, deepen your knowledge, and connect with other like-minded creatives along the way.

Recommended Tools and Software:

1. Trello (<https://trello.com/>) - A free, easy-to-use project management tool that helps you organize your to-do lists, ideas, and collaborations in one place.
2. Evernote (<https://evernote.com/>) - A powerful note-taking and organizational app that allows you to capture, store, and sync your ideas across all your devices.
3. Canva (<https://www.canva.com/>) - A user-friendly graphic design tool that makes it easy to create

professional-looking social media graphics, marketing materials, and more.

4. Freshbooks (<https://www.freshbooks.com/>) - A cloud-based accounting and invoicing software designed specifically for freelancers and creative entrepreneurs.
5. Hootsuite (<https://hootsuite.com/>) - A social media management platform that allows you to schedule posts, track analytics, and engage with your followers across multiple channels.

Additional Reading and Learning Materials:

1. "The War of Art" by Steven Pressfield - A must-read book for anyone struggling with creative resistance, procrastination, or self-doubt.
2. "The Creative Habit" by Twyla Tharp - A practical and inspiring guide to developing a consistent creative practice, from one of the world's most renowned choreographers.
3. "The E-Myth Revisited" by Michael E. Gerber - A classic book on entrepreneurship that helps you understand the difference between working in your business and working on your business.
4. "The Freelancer's Bible" by Sara Horowitz - A comprehensive guide to building a successful freelance

career, from finding clients to managing your finances and more.

5. CreativeLive (<https://www.creativelive.com/>) - An online learning platform that offers high-quality video courses on a wide range of creative topics, from photography to graphic design to entrepreneurship.

Online Communities and Support Groups:

1. The Freelance to Freedom Project (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/freelancetofreedom/>) - A supportive Facebook community for freelancers and creative entrepreneurs, founded by creative business coach Leah Kalamakis.
2. The Creative Collective (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/thecreativecollectivejp/>) - A vibrant online community for creatives of all kinds, featuring daily prompts, challenges, and opportunities for collaboration and connection.
3. The Solopreneur Society (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/solopreneursociety/>) - A global network of solo entrepreneurs and freelancers, with a focus on business strategy, marketing, and personal development.
4. The Rising Tide Society (<https://www.honeybook.com/risingtide/>) - A community of creative entrepreneurs and small business

owners, with local chapters and events around the world.

5. Creative Mornings (<https://creativemornings.com/>) - A global breakfast lecture series for the creative community, with free monthly events in cities around the world.

I hope these resources serve as a valuable starting point for your ongoing learning and growth as a creative entrepreneur. But remember, the most important resource of all is your own unique voice, vision, and creativity. So keep exploring, keep experimenting, and keep shining your light in the world.

I'm so grateful to have been a part of your journey, and I can't wait to see where your creative adventures take you next.

With all my support and encouragement,

DISCLAIMER

A Playful Perspective

Alright, my dear reader, it's time for a little heart-to-heart. Before you dive headfirst into the exhilarating world of creative survival gigs, let's have a chat about expectations, responsibilities, and the wild, unpredictable journey ahead.

First things first: I'm here to inspire, encourage, and guide you with all the wisdom and experience I've gained from my own adventures in the land of entrepreneurship. But here's the thing - your success? That's all on you, my friend. I can point you in the right direction, but you're the one who has to take the leap and make the magic happen.

So, while I've poured my heart and soul into this book, I can't guarantee that you'll become an overnight sensation, a millionaire, or the next big thing in your creative field. That's not how this works. Your results will depend entirely on your level of commitment, your willingness to take risks, and your dedication to turning your dreams into reality.

Now, I know what you might be thinking. "But wait, what about all those shiny websites and platforms you mentioned? Aren't you getting some kind of kickback or commission from them?"

Nope, not even a little bit. I'm not here to sell you anything or make a quick buck off your creative aspirations. I simply want to share the tools and resources that have helped me along the way, with no strings attached.

So, whether you choose to sign up for Upwork, rent out your spare room on Airbnb, or start a TikTok channel showcasing your interpretive dance skills, that's entirely up to you. I'm not affiliated with any of these platforms, and I won't see a dime of your hard-earned cash. My reward is knowing that I've helped you take one step closer to your dreams, whatever they may be.

By picking up this book, you've already shown that you're ready to take control of your creative destiny and build a life that's truly your own. And that's amazing! But as with any journey, there will be obstacles, setbacks, and moments of doubt along the way. That's just part of the gig.

So, I want you to know that I'm here for you, cheering you on from the sidelines and offering my support and encouragement whenever you need it. But at the end of the day, your success is in your hands. You're the one who has to put in the hard work, the hustle, and the heart to make your creative dreams a reality.

And you know what? I have no doubt that you've got what it takes. You wouldn't be here if you didn't. So, take a deep breath, trust in yourself, and get ready to embark on the adventure of a lifetime. I'll be right beside you, every step of the way.

With all my creative love and mischief,

Theron LaFountain

P.S. Oh, and one more thing - if you do happen to strike it big and become a creative superstar, feel free to give me a shoutout in your Grammy acceptance speech or your New York Times bestseller acknowledgments. I mean, I won't hold my breath, but a boy can dream, right?