



# **28 WAYS TO EARN A SIDE INCOME WHILE LEARNING HOW TO CODE**

How to turn your tech skills into dollars—even if  
you're just starting out

# 28 WAYS TO EARN A SIDE INCOME **WHILE LEARNING HOW TO CODE**

How to turn your tech skills into dollars—even if you're just starting out

If you're reading this, I'm going to hazard a guess that two things are true of you:

- 1. You're learning tech skills (or would like to).**
- 2. You want to make money with those skills.**

But what does the journey look like from A to B? What kinds of gigs or projects can you do to make money while you learn?

And for that, you've come to the right place :)

Below, you'll find 28 ideas for side projects that will help you put into practice what you've learned, teach you brand-new tech skills, and net you some cash in the process. With each idea, I'll cover what skills you need to do it, the possible earning potential, how much time you'll need to dedicate, how doing the work can improve your tech skills, and how to get started with the gig.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## CATEGORY 1: ALL THINGS WEBSITES

- 1 [Build simple websites for clients](#)
- 2 [Create your own niche or authority site](#)
- 3 [Buy and improve a website](#)
- 4 [Set up clients' hosting and WordPress](#)

## CATEGORY 2: TECH-RELATED WRITING

- 5 [Publish on Medium](#)
- 6 [Write and sell an ebook](#)
- 7 [Become a content writer](#)

## CATEGORY 3: WORKING WITH PEOPLE

- 8 [Become a virtual assistant](#)
- 9 [Be customer service/live tech support \(potentially for software you're familiar with\)](#)
- 10 [Tutor students](#)
- 11 [Become a social media manager/assistant](#)
- 12 [Become a mentor/consultant](#)

## CATEGORY 4: SELLING A PRODUCT

- 13 [Start an ecommerce store](#)
- 14 [Create your own piece of software](#)
- 15 [Build a paid plugin](#)

[16 Design and sell tech-themed merch/clothes](#)

[17 Sell hosting](#)

[18 Buy and sell domain names](#)

#### **CATEGORY 5: APP BUILDING**

[19 Become a freelance app developer for clients](#)

[20 Create your own app and publish it in the app store](#)

#### **CATEGORY 6: MONETIZING YOUR KNOWLEDGE**

[21 Start a podcast and get sponsors](#)

[22 Become a social media influencer and get sponsors](#)

[23 Start a YouTube channel and allow ads](#)

[24 Teach via an online course](#)

#### **CATEGORY 7: IMPROVING THE INTERNET**

[25 QA testing](#)

[26 Improve search engines](#)

#### **CATEGORY 8: MISC. TASKS FOR CLIENTS**

[27 Edit videos and podcast episodes](#)

[28 Work on Mechanical Turk](#)

# CATEGORY 1:

## ALL THINGS WEBSITES

### 1 Build simple websites for clients

This idea entails getting clients and building websites for them. It could be building entire sites from scratch or developing individual pages and features to improve existing sites.

- **Essential skills:** WordPress, HTML/CSS
- **Desirable skills:** JavaScript, design
- **Earning potential:** [Average web developer rate on Upwork](#): \$75 per hour
- **Time commitment:** A couple of hours per week to full-time (as a freelance website developer)
- **How it can further your tech skills:**
  - Lets you practice your coding skills in a hands-on way
  - Gives you a chance to build up your project portfolio
  - You'll get used to working with clients, solving their problems, communicating, etc.
- **How to get started:**
  - Learn skills like HTML, CSS, and JavaScript by starting with free tutorials on sites like [Codecademy](#) and [w3schools](#), and then [paid, instructor-led courses from sites like Skillcrush](#). (Find more recommendations on the [Learn to Code With Me Tools page!](#))
  - Find website development gigs on sites like [Upwork](#) and [Guru](#).

## 2 Create your own niche or authority site

You don't have to just build websites for clients when you can build and monetize your own! There are two good options for a monetizable site:

1. A niche site is focused on a very specific topic, e.g. [security guard training](#) (took 73 days to get it at #1 in Google for his target keyword and earning almost \$700 per month)
2. An authority site focuses on building authority on a broader topic (e.g. Learn to Code With Me!)

In both cases, the sites will target keywords in their area of expertise with the aim of ranking near the top of Google to get traffic. Owners may also build an email audience or online presence beyond just the site.

Once you've built your site and started adding content, you can monetize using affiliate links (where you get commission for referring sales), sign up to get ad revenue once you have enough traffic, or sell your own products.

- **Essential skills:** WordPress/any website-building skills, research
- **Desirable skills:** SEO, design
- **Earning potential:** Limitless in theory—[Pat Flynn makes 6 figures a month from his niche sites](#). For most people, expect to start much smaller!
- **Time commitment:** Depends how big the site is, but expect lots of work upfront to build and launch the site, and then less time to maintain and update it on an ongoing basis
- **How it can further your tech skills:**

- You'll get into the nitty gritty of building your own website, forcing you to learn how to deal with wonky code, bugs, etc. You'll learn a lot just by getting your hands dirty.
- It will give you a strong online presence, opening up more opportunities for you (freelance clients, interested tech employers, etc.)
- You can add it to your portfolio, LinkedIn, etc. to show off what you can do.

→ **How to get started:**

- A perk of this option is that you can get started right now, without needing to wait for clients or job listings.
- Register your domain name, find a web hosting company, design a website (or use a template), build keyword/SEO strategy, and start creating content and brainstorming ways to monetize.
- Level up your skills at [Smart Passive Income](#) or take the [Authority SEO course](#)

## 3 Buy and improve a website

You can think of this option as “website flipping” with “virtual real estate.” Here, you can either (A) buy a website that’s already established and profitable and make it even better so it grows at a faster rate, or (B) buy a struggling website and completely change it so it becomes profitable.

This could be more attractive than starting your own site because an established website already has history, content, SEO rankings, and traffic, so you get to start making improvements and focusing your energy on monetizing.

- **Essential skills:** Digital marketing, basic website building skills
- **Desirable skills:** HTML/CSS, JavaScript, SEO, website monetization
- **Earning potential:** [This guy](#) made \$180,000 buying and selling websites part time

- **Time commitment:** It can be years before you start seeing a return on your investment
- **How it can further your tech skills:**
  - Gain knowledge of business and marketing
  - Learn ways to improve a website (SEO, advertising, etc.)
- **How to get started:**
  - Check out marketplaces like [Flippa](#), [Empire Flippers](#), and [Flipping Enterprises](#) to get started buying and selling.
  - [How To Buy A Website And Flip It For Profit](#)

## 4 Set up clients' hosting and WordPress

While this isn't building a website yourself, it does have a lot of overlap. You'll need to understand a client's needs and set up their WordPress account, adding the right plugins to meet their needs, optimizing speeds, choosing the best WordPress hosting, getting everything set up and ready to go, etc.

- **Essential skills:** Hosting, WordPress, communication skills
- **Desirable skills:** Digital marketing
- **Earning potential:** A few hundred per month to thousands depending on how many clients you have
- **Time commitment:** A few hours per week
- **How it can further your tech skills:**
  - Gain in-depth hosting and WP skills
  - Get used to working with clients



→ **How to get started:**

- Various freelancing sites like [Freelancer.com](https://www.freelancer.com) and [Upwork](https://www.upwork.com) can be a good place for mining clients
- Learn more about [making money as a WordPress developer here](#)

## CATEGORY 2:

# TECH-RELATED WRITING

## 5 Publish on Medium

Medium is an online community where anyone can post articles and essays and get them in front of their audience of millions of monthly readers.

You can choose whether your articles are freely available or only readable by those people paying \$5/month for a premium Medium membership. You'll make money based on the amount of people who read and engage with your posts each month.

- **Essential skills:** Content writing, research skills
- **Desirable skills:** Organization, marketing, knowledge of a topic you can write about
- **Earning potential:** Someone [earned \\$422.83 in one month](#) by publishing consistently
- **Time commitment:** Several hours per article (depending on how research-heavy it is, word count, etc.)
- **How it can further your tech skills:**
  - Build your audience for your own blog, or find clients for freelancing business

- Writing on a technical topic helps you understand that topic more in-depth

→ **How to get started:**

- Register for [Medium's Partner Program](#) for free and make money whenever someone reads your articles.

## 6 Write and sell an ebook

Pick a topic you're passionate about, write a digital book (typically 10,000+ words), self-publish it, and [sell it through marketplaces like Amazon](#).

→ **Essential skills:** Content writing, researching, design, passion and knowledge about a topic

→ **Desirable skills:** Marketing, SEO, blogging

→ **Earning potential:** You can make [\\$500+ per month in passive income](#)

→ **Time commitment:** A few weeks to a few months, depending on ebook length

→ **How it can further your tech skills:**

- Writing on a technical topic helps you understand that topic in-depth
- Improve communication skills (useful for pitches, proposals, reports, etc.)
- Can serve as a "business card" and build authority

→ **How to get started:**

- Start by outlining each chapter to keep everything organized. Then, start researching, writing, editing and designing!
- Check out: [The Developer's Guide to Creating Ebooks \(While You Are Still Learning the Topic\)](#)

# 7 Become a content writer

If you're a talented wordsmith, you can market your skills to write for clients instead of yourself—people need content on a wide range of topics for blogs, landing pages, website copy, etc.

- **Essential skills:** SEO, writing
- **Desirable skills:** WordPress
- **Earning potential:** Average pay: [\\$17.83 per hour](#)
- **Time commitment:** A couple of hours per week to full-time (depends on how many writing projects you decide to take on)
- **How it can further your tech skills:**
  - Writing on a technical topic helps you understand that topic in greater depth
  - Improve communication skills (useful for pitches, proposals, reports, etc.)
- **How to get started:**
  - Find content writing gigs on sites like [Upwork](#) and [Freelancer](#).

# CATEGORY 3:

## WORKING WITH PEOPLE

### 8 Become a virtual assistant

Virtual assistants work remotely to help business owners run their businesses. There are different types and specializations among VAs, such as customer service, marketing, admin, bilingual, etc. In most cases, the business owner gives you tasks and projects, like formatting blog posts, responding to customer emails, researching articles, scheduling social media posts, etc.

- **Essential skills:** organization, communication
- **Desirable skills:** research, basic coding, WordPress, marketing, graphic design
- **Earning potential:** from a few dollars to around \$60 per hour
- **Time commitment:** anywhere from 1-2 hours per week to full-time, many clients want around 10 hours per month
- **How it can further your tech skills:**
  - Get familiar with how marketing and business work
  - Varied, good for trying your hand at lots of different roles like SEO, marketing, website design, tech support, etc.
  - Try lots of pieces of software, e.g. email marketing provider, social media schedulers, website builders, accounting, hosting, etc.

→ **How to get started:**

- Where to find jobs: job boards like Upwork, Facebook groups for businesses, VA-specific Facebook groups like [Virtual Assistance Business Support](#) and [Virtual Assistant Tribe Job Board](#), or sign up for job alerts from the [VA Clinic's Daily Vitamin](#)

## 9 Be customer service/live tech support (potentially for software you're familiar with)

Apply to be the person on the other end of the live support chat for a specific piece of software (e.g., email marketing provider, website builders, accounting, hosting). The job will entail answering client inquiries via chat, email, phone, etc. Remote positions are often available.

- **Essential skills:** communication (written/verbal), familiarity with the software
- **Desirable skills:** Customer service experience, troubleshooting skills
- **Earning potential:** [Around \\$15 - \\$19 per hour](#)
- **Time commitment:** A few hours per week, all the way up to full-time (since live tech support is often 24/7, you might work late into the night/early morning)
- **How it can further your tech skills:**
  - Become expert-level at a certain software
  - Get experience in tech support, which you can leverage into a full time role
  - Gain experience in helping clients with their tech problems, and sharpen your troubleshooting and problem-solving skills
  - Get used to explaining technical things to non-technical people

→ **How to get started:**

- Search for customer/tech support jobs on popular job sites like Indeed, Glassdoor, and LinkedIn.
- [Browse Upwork](#) to find tech support opportunities.

## 10 Tutor students

Tutoring can come in many forms. You could teach kids to code, teach seniors to use computers, or teach STEM subjects. Opportunities may be available for you either locally or online.

→ **Essential skills:** A skill you're confident teaching (coding, STEM, computer skills), communication, empathy, patience

→ **Desirable skills:** Past experience as a tutor

→ **Earning potential:** [\\$10-75 per hour of teaching](#) (not including planning/travelling)

→ **Time commitment:** As many hours as you want / super flexible

→ **How it can further your tech skills:**

- Tutoring helps you to maintain and improve your own subject matter knowledge
- You'll develop strong communication and leadership skills
- You'll build confidence explaining complex concepts, which can serve you well in the workforce

→ **How to get started:**

- Ask around at local high schools, middle schools, elementary schools
- Post in relevant, local Facebook groups that you're available for tutoring services

- Go through an agency, such as [Tutor.com](https://www.tutor.com) or local agencies in your area
- Start your own tutoring business

## 11 Become a social media manager/assistant

Create content for a business or brand and share it in an engaging way to encourage the audience to do something (e.g., sign up, buy something, click on something, learn more about the brand, etc.). You might get experience working with Facebook ads, answering audience questions, and more; it can really vary based on the role.

- **Essential skills:** social media marketing, familiarity with different social platforms (Instagram, Twitter, Facebook), social media scheduling software like Hootsuite
- **Desirable skills:** design, ad writing, marketing, A/B testing, networking
- **Earning potential:** [Average social media manager rate on Upwork](#): \$32/hour
- **Time commitment:** Typically 10-30 hours per week
- **How it can further your tech skills:**
  - Gain exposure to different technical platforms
  - Learn marketing/business
  - Can help teach you how to build up your own personal brand
- **How to get started:**
  - Build up a social media following of your own to boost credibility (show potential clients that you know what you're doing)
  - Find [social media manager gigs on Upwork](#)

# 12 Become a mentor/consultant

Business owners often need to bring in outside counsel to solve specialized problems. If you have the expertise, you can market yourself as a consultant! Or, through a service like JustAnswer (mentioned below), you can help answer the questions that people have about a topic you're experienced in.

- **Essential skills:** Expertise on a subject, communication, and leadership
- **Desirable skills:** Organization
- **Earning potential:** On JustAnswer, [most questions pay between \\$2 and \\$5](#), but this largely depends on the field of expertise and the question itself. You can earn [\\$100 per hour](#) on sites like Clarity.fm.
- **Time commitment:** A few hours per week
- **How it can further your tech skills:**
  - Mentoring is a great way to get really good at something; it helps to maintain and improve subject matter knowledge
- **How to get started:**
  - Sites like [Clarity.fm](#) let you create a profile where entrepreneurs and business owners can pre-pay to book a phone call with you for a set amount of time. Whether you're an expert in raising money for startups, building apps, or running a restaurant, you can make extra money selling a few minutes of your time to people in need.
  - If you don't like talking on the phone, you can sign up to get paid to answer professional questions on [JustAnswer](#). There are thousands of questions being asked every month from people looking for help from lawyers, doctors, mechanics, vets, and more. To apply, you'll need to supply your professional verification, resume, and a form of identification.



# CATEGORY 4:

## SELLING A PRODUCT

### 13 Start an ecommerce store

You can launch your own online store to sell something that you make (crafts, jewelry, etc. or even things like website themes or design templates).

- **Essential skills:** Something you can sell, organization, communication
- **Desirable skills:** Marketing automation, SEO, social media, email marketing
- **Earning potential:** Limitless (anywhere from a few dollars a week to thousands of dollars per month, depends on the product's value)
- **Time commitment:** Depends on your goals: anywhere from a few hours per week to full-time (creating products, putting them up online, packaging, shipping, etc.)
- **How it can further your tech skills:**
  - Learn about marketing and how to run a successful business
  - Gain skills in UX design
  - Even though there are ecommerce platforms that handle most of the tech side, you can start small by customizing the code on your site and making small tweaks to make it your own
- **How to get started:**
  - Choose your platform:
    - Etsy
    - Shopify

- WordPress + WooCommerce
- Amazon
- Dropshipping
- Whitelabeling
- Build up enough inventory of your product (whatever that may be) to start selling

## 14 Create your own piece of software

When your coding skills are advanced enough, put them to use by creating and selling your own software product.

- **Essential skills:** Coding, design, business and marketing skills
- **Desirable skills:** Organization, communication
- **Earning potential:** Anywhere from a few dollars to a few thousand per month
- **Time commitment:** Big time commitment, since software products are often complex and a lot of moving parts must come together
- **How it can further your tech skills:**
  - You can add your projects to your online portfolio, resume, etc. to gain more clients or eventually land a full-time job if that's your goal
- **How to get started:**
  - Come up with a unique idea and start coding!
  - Start as simply as possible by creating a MVP (minimal viable product)
  - Learn more about the process here: [How to Create Your Own Software Product](#)

- Or follow the process outlined in [this episode of the Smart Passive Income Podcast](#) (it's a clever way of finding a need in a lucrative industry and working back from there)

## 15 Build a paid plugin

Since WordPress powers [over 28% of the entire internet](#), there's a lot of demand for plugins and themes. Find a problem that needs to be solved and create a WordPress plugin of your own to solve it. Market it a little and it may start practically selling itself.

- **Essential skills:** Basic PHP, how actions and filters work in WordPress (you can read up on this in the [WordPress Codex](#))
- **Desirable skills:** marketing, customer support, SEO
- **Earning potential:** You can sell your plugin for any amount of money (\$2-\$50 seems pretty typical), so the sky's the limit depending on how many people you can get to buy your plugin.
- **Time commitment:** Few hours per week
- **How it can further your tech skills:**
  - You'll learn your way around WordPress
  - Get a better grasp on PHP (or exercise your existing skills)
  - Build something that you can add to your portfolio and show off as proof of your expertise
- **How to get started:**
  - [Create your first plugin in five simple steps](#)
  - [How to Sell Premium WordPress Plugins](#)

# 16 Design and sell tech-themed merch/clothes

Combine your skills for design and tech by creating and selling unique merchandise.

Example: Laura Medalia ([codergirl](#) on Instagram) has [a line of programming shirts](#). So does [@codingblonde](#).

- **Essential skills:** design, creativity
- **Desirable skills:** marketing, paid ads
- **Earning potential:** Hundreds to thousands per month (check out [Teespring's profit calculator](#))
- **Time commitment:** Time spent on designing your merch (couple of hours to several weeks). There are websites (like the one mentioned in "how to get started") that can handle production, shipping, and customer service for you.
- **How it can further your tech skills:**
  - Learn what it takes to run a business
  - Working on an e-commerce store can help you learn things like: design, marketing, code, etc.
- **How to get started:**
  - Brainstorm fun design ideas
  - You can create custom shirt designs and sell them on [Teespring](#)

# 17 Sell hosting

This can work well in conjunction with running your own site or building them for clients, because you can actually buy hosting services in bulk at a discounted rate, then resell the WordPress hosting to your own clients.

Or, if you want to implement this idea on its own, you can even use affiliate marketing techniques for selling hosting.

- **Essential skills:** Knowledge of that hosting service, good communication skills to interact with clients, knowledge of server technology
- **Desirable skills:** Digital marketing skills, including affiliate marketing
- **Earning potential:** [Around \\$100 a day](#) to even [six figures!](#)
- **Time commitment:** A few hours per week
- **How it can further your tech skills:**
  - You'll learn more about web hosting, plus how to run your own business
  - Improve communication skills (useful for pitches, proposals, reports, etc.)
- **How to get started:**
  - Choose the right host to partner with
  - Learn more about [reselling web hosting here](#) or [watch this 5-minute video](#)

# 18 Buy and sell domain names

Just like actual real estate, there is a finite amount of good internet real estate. Everyone wants a catchy domain with a “.com” extension—so much so that domains like Hotel.com and Business.com were [reportedly sold for \\$11 and \\$7 million](#). If you can think of great

domain ideas and are willing to take the gamble of hoping it will sell for a profit, buy them, list them for sale, and seek out buyers!

- **Essential skills:** Digital marketing, communication
- **Desirable skills:** Research, negotiation and networking skills
- **Earning potential:** [This guy](#) made \$17,000 from a domain he bought for \$70. Another well-known domainer made \$58,000 profit in 60 days selling [8 domains](#). Finally, [this \\$10 domain investment](#) turned into \$2,600.
- **Time commitment:** A few hours per week
- **How it can further your tech skills:**
  - You'll learn more about how websites are run, plus how to run your own business
  - Improve communication skills
- **How to get started:**
  - Familiarize yourself with how much domains typically cost on average in a certain industry or niche.
  - Browse domains that are currently selling or have recently been sold at marketplaces and directories such as Sedo, Flippa, and NameBio.
  - Learn more [here](#) and [here](#).

# CATEGORY 5:

## APP BUILDING

### 19 Become a freelance app developer for clients

Often, people will have an idea for an app but need help from a developer to build it. That could be you!

- **Essential skills:** Objective-C, Java, or React Native (depending on if you're building an Android or iOS app)
- **Desirable skills:** Communication skills, customer service (for client interactions)
- **Earning potential:** Average hourly rate: [\\$61-80](#)
- **Time commitment:** A few hours per week to full-time
- **How it can further your tech skills:**
  - You'll learn how to run your own business
  - You can add your projects to your online portfolio, resume, etc. to gain more clients or eventually land a full-time job if that's your goal
  - It will give you a strong online presence, opening up more opportunities for you (freelance clients, interested tech employers, etc.)
- **How to get started:**
  - Various freelancing sites like [Freelancer.com](#) and [Upwork](#) can be a good place for mining clients

## 20 Create your own app and publish it in the app store

Got a great idea for an app? Build it with languages like Objective-C, Java, or React Native, then put it up on the App Store or Google Play store. Earn money by charging a certain price for the app, or by publishing a free one and including ads or optional purchases.

- **Essential skills:** Objective-C, Java, or React Native (depending on if you're building an Android or iOS app)
- **Desirable skills:** Marketing, business
- **Earning potential:** Varies, but [16% of Android developers and 25% of iOS developers](#) make over \$5,000/month with their mobile app earnings.
- **Time commitment:** It can be a huge time commitment up front ([4-6 months](#)), but less once you've built the app and have a passive stream of income rolling in
- **How it can further your tech skills:**
  - Gain hands-on mobile development experience with a project-based side gig
  - Great addition to your online portfolio, resume, etc.
- **How to get started:**
  - Come up with a great idea and start coding
  - [How to Build a Mobile App That Actually Makes Money](#)
  - [How To Submit An App To The App Store](#)



# CATEGORY 6:

## MONETIZING YOUR KNOWLEDGE

### 21 Start a podcast and get sponsors

Do you have great verbal skills? Turn them into a podcast. You'll need to do things like determining your niche, finding and contacting guests for the show, recording and editing episodes, and marketing the show to gain listeners.

- **Essential skills:** WordPress, communication/interviewing skills, SEO
- **Desirable skills:** Experience with audio equipment, knowledge of how to run affiliate/sponsorship programs
- **Earning potential:** Advertising rates across the podcast industry range from [\\$25-\\$50 per 1,000 listeners](#). You probably won't start off with that large of an audience, however, so earning potential for this side gig is likely to be a slow burn as you build your authority on the internet. According to [ProBlogger](#), a 1,000-listener show (closer to the average listenership out there) is looking at \$180 per month for 1 sponsor, or \$360 for two.
- **Time commitment:** A lot upfront to set up, get your equipment together, create content, reach out to sponsors. After that, whatever time it takes to find guests and record, edit, and publish episodes.
- **How it can further your tech skills:**
  - Helps you make connections in the industry / learn from experts
  - Help you learn more about tech-related topics (depending on the subject of your podcast)

→ **How to get started:**

- Brainstorm! Come up with a title, topic, and summary/description of your vision for the podcast. Check out Pat Flynn's [How to Start a Podcast in 2019: Pat's Complete Step-By-Step Podcasting Tutorial](#)

## 22 Become a social media influencer and get sponsors

This is similar to starting a blog/podcast, but focused more on sharing and monetizing via social media (think YouTube, Instagram, Twitter, etc.). Internet fame won't happen overnight (and not all influencers are famous-famous), but by carefully curating content in your niche, you can grow your personal brand and bring in viewers, followers, etc.

- **Essential skills:** A niche topic you're passionate about, social media marketing, communication (written/verbal)
- **Desirable skills:** Past experience working with sponsors, connections in your industry
- **Earning potential:** [As Vox reports](#), "Influencers with up to 1 million followers can get \$10,000 [per post], depending on the platform, and 1 million followers and up, you're getting into territory where they can charge \$100,000. Some can even get \$250,000 for a post."
- **Time commitment:** A couple of hours per week to full-time
- **How it can further your tech skills:**
  - Learn more about business/marketing
  - Get experience being self-employed

→ **How to get started:**

- Choose which social media channel you want to become an influencer on (Instagram, Twitter, etc.)
- Develop a content strategy, regular posting schedule, etc.

## 23 Start a YouTube channel and allow ads

Are videos more your thing? Earn by publishing videos on YouTube, turning on ads, and gaining viewers to pull in money from ad engagement.

- **Essential skills:** Verbal/visual communication, something that you can talk about with passion
- **Desirable skills:** Videography, audio, presenting
- **Earning potential:** [YouTube Money Calculator: Calculate How Much You Can Make](#)  
Anywhere from \$10 per month all the way up to \$10,000+ per month (depending on daily viewers, ad engagement, etc.)
- **Time commitment:** Anywhere from a couple of hours per week to full-time
- **How it can further your tech skills:**
  - If you start a tech YouTube channel, you'll build up brand authority in your niche, learn by teaching, etc.
  - Depending on your topic, reinforce your learning through teaching it to others
  - Make connections

→ **How to get started:**

- How to turn on YouTube ads:

<https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/94522?hl=en>

## 24 Teach via an online course

If you have useful knowledge on a specific topic, you can turn it into a course. This is usually a combination of recording videos and developing some other form of valuable content (PDFs, slides, quizzes, homework, etc.) to teach people how to do something.

→ **Essential skills:** Something to teach (coding, design, etc.)

→ **Desirable skills:** Marketing, SEO, social media

→ **Earning potential:** It's possible to make [over \\$100,000 per year](#). A more realistic amount? Consider charging \$90 for your course (remember, you don't have to be an expert on a topic to teach it). Let's say you manage to get 200 students—that's \$18,000 in passive income.

→ **Time commitment:** A lot initially, but close to nothing once you've set up the course, built an email list, and enrolled students.

→ **How it can further your tech skills:**

- Gain knowledge of business, marketing, and growing an email list
- You can make tweaks in the code to change the way your course looks, plus you can integrate many online course platforms with other products (e.g., email marketing software) to learn more about task automation

→ **How to get started:**

- Sign up on [Udemy](#) or [Teachable](#)
- Design a course curriculum (record videos, develop assignments for students, etc.)

- Market the course to get students to sign up.
- Let passive income stream in.
- Learn more here: [Create a Course in 20 Minutes a Day](#)

## CATEGORY 7:

# IMPROVING THE INTERNET

## 25 QA testing

QA testers are responsible for running tests on websites, applications, and software programs to identify coding flaws and bugs. They aren't the ones writing the code—their job is knowing how to run the automated tests that inspect code for problems—meaning you don't have to be a master coder to do QA work.

You might also find gigs where you visit websites and record your reactions and thoughts as you go through it, looking for mistakes, design flaws, etc.

- **Essential skills:** eye for detail, bug tracking tools, test management tools
- **Desirable skills:** GUI testing tools, automation tools
- **Earning potential:** [Average QA Testing rate](#) on Upwork: \$47/hour
- **Time commitment:** A few hours per week to full-time
- **How it can further your tech skills:**
  - Help you learn more about the coding process
  - If you start a QA side hustle you'll be up close and personal with plenty of coding examples to learn from

→ **How to get started:**

- If you're interested in learning more about QA testing, sites like [Udemy](#) and [Lynda](#) offer online courses
- To get started making extra money online by testing websites, sign up for some of the most popular services like [UserTesting.com](#), [Userlytics](#), [TryMyUI](#), [Userfeel](#), [TestingTime](#) (for people outside the U.S), or [Side Income Jobs](#)

## 26 Improve search engines

If you've ever done a Google search and found irrelevant results, you might be able to turn it into a side gig! People work to evaluate search results and make sure that algorithms are ranking them correctly. You will most likely be doing ratings on either Google or Bing, looking at specific results and make sure that they follow the guidelines. You may provide feedback on anything from search results to ads to web page content.

"Ever see a Google result and say "How the heck did that get there?" While Google and other search engines use powerful algorithms to determine which pages to show for search results, there are real people making money online by making sure the machines are doing their job correctly."

- **Essential skills:** Research skills, an eye for detail
- **Desirable skills:** You use search engines every day, writing, website management
- **Earning potential:** [\\$12 to \\$15 per hour](#)
- **Time commitment:** Usually a minimum of 10 hours per week
- **How it can further your tech skills:**
  - Get a better idea of how search engines work

→ **How to get started:**

- With sites like [Appen](#) and [LionBridge](#) you can make money by conducting researches on predefined search queries and providing feedback for results based on their relevance.

## CATEGORY 8:

# MISC. TASKS FOR CLIENTS

## 27 Edit videos and podcast episodes

Video is a more popular medium than ever, from YouTubers to businesses promoting themselves via online ads or social advertising. With the right software and skills, you can take their raw footage and turn it into a cohesive, attractive video.

→ **Essential skills:** Adobe Premiere Pro, creativity, eye for detail

→ **Desirable skills:** Organization, communication, time management

→ **Earning potential:** [\\$20 to \\$100+ per hour](#)

→ **Time commitment:** A few hours per week to full time

→ **How it can further your tech skills:**

- Become a master at video/audio editing software
- Make connections with clients and fellow video editors

→ **How to get started:**

- Look for online video editor jobs on [Mandy.com](#), [Creative Cow Job Search](#), or [ProductionHub](#).

## 28 Work on Mechanical Turk

You can do small, simple tasks for clients through Amazon Mechanical Turk. Available tasks could include basic translating, checking spelling on search terms, image/video processing, and data verification.

- **Essential skills:** Eye for detail, organization
- **Desirable skills:** Past experience with data processing/verification
- **Earning potential:** People report [average earnings of \\$6 to \\$10 per hour](#)
- **Time commitment:** A few hours per week
- **How it can further your tech skills:**
  - Try your hand at a variety of tasks (data, content writing, categorizing information)
- **How to get started:**
  - [Set up an Amazon Mechanical Turk account](#) and start completing tasks

With all these options, you're set to start hunting for your first tech-related side gig!