

five questions, *ten minutes.*

A free printable that rules side-income ideas in or out for your real week, before you spend a cent or a weekend on the wrong one.

— The five questions that rule most ideas in or out

— A quick score for any idea you're considering

— Red flags that mean 'not right now'

— Three ideas compared on one page

— What to do next, in 14 days

BIG PLANS. REAL LIFE.

General educational information, not financial, legal or tax advice. No income guarantees. Examples are illustrative. Version 1.1 · October 2026.

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START HERE

How to use this in ten minutes

Most side-income ideas don't fail because they're bad. They fail because they don't fit the week you actually have. These five questions catch that early.

1. Answer the five questions about your week below. Be honest, not hopeful.
2. Write down up to three ideas you keep coming back to.
3. Score each idea against your answers in the scoring table.
4. Check the red flags.
5. Pick one idea to test properly, or none for now. Both are good outcomes.

GOOD TO KNOW

This is a quick filter, not a promise. It can't tell you what you'll earn. It tells you which ideas are worth testing first.

YOUR WEEK

The five questions

Write your answers in the boxes. These five rule most ideas in or out.

1. HOW MANY HOURS A WEEK CAN YOU HONESTLY GIVE THIS? (NOT YOUR BEST WEEK. A NORMAL ONE.)

2. WHAT'S THE LONGEST BLOCK YOU RELIABLY GET? (30 MINUTES? TWO HOURS? A WHOLE SCHOOL DAY?)

3. CAN YOU EVER WORK EVENINGS OR WEEKENDS? (YES, SOMETIMES, OR NEVER)

4. HOW MUCH MONEY COULD YOU SPEND TO START? (ZERO IS A FINE ANSWER)

5. HOW MUCH CONTACT WITH CUSTOMERS SUITS YOU? (NONE, MESSAGES ONLY, CALLS, OR FACE TO FACE)

GOOD TO KNOW

Tip: if your longest block is under an hour, look for ideas you can do in pieces (digital products, admin tasks, Pinterest), not ones that need long sessions (in-person lessons, events).

SCORE IT

Score up to three ideas

For each idea, give 0, 1 or 2 for each question: 2 = fits easily, 1 = fits with effort, 0 = doesn't fit. Ten is the most an idea can score.

QUESTION

IDEA A

IDEA B

IDEA C

Fits my hours a week

Fits my longest block

Fits my evenings/weekends answer

QUESTION	IDEA A	IDEA B	IDEA C
Fits my start-up money			
Fits how much contact I want			
Total (out of 10)			

What the total means

- 8–10: worth testing first.
- 5–7: possible, but write down what would have to change.
- 0–4: not for this season of life. Park it without guilt.

RED FLAGS

Signs it's 'not right now'

Any one of these is a reason to pause, even if the score looks good.

- ☐ It needs a licence, check or registration you can't get soon
- ☐ It only works if you're available at times you're not
- ☐ You'd have to spend money before you know anyone will pay
- ☐ The only way to sell it is cold messaging strangers
- ☐ Someone is promising you a set income if you join or buy in
- ☐ You feel relief, not excitement, when you picture stopping

GOOD TO KNOW

If anyone asks you to pay to join, recruit others, or buy stock to 'unlock' income, that's a red flag in itself. We never recommend those.

NEXT STEP

Test one idea in 14 days

A score tells you what to test. A test tells you if anyone will actually pay.

- Pick your highest-scoring idea.
- Describe the offer in one sentence: who it's for, what they get, the price.
- Talk to five real people who might buy it. Ask questions before you sell anything.
- Decide on day 14: test again, change one thing, or stop. All three are results.

GOOD TO KNOW

Want the full version? The Income Fit Test matches 20 questions against 23 researched ideas, helps you work out your real hourly return from your own numbers, and walks you through a 14-day test. US\$19, instant download. Full refund within 14 days of purchase, no questions asked. herlittleempire.com