

200 Businesses You Can Start with Little or No Money



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Below is a list of ideas for starting businesses or freelance operations with little or no money. Many are ideas for interim ways of making money while you train and prepare for the work you truly want to do. Many, however, have long-term career potential as well. See if one or more is right for you.

1. Abstract or technical writing
2. Ad agency
3. Aerobic instructor
4. Air conditioning and heating repair services
5. Alarm installation service
6. Aquarium service
7. Astrologer
8. Auctioneer
9. Auto detailing
10. Beads & bracelets
11. Bicycle repair and sales
12. Bicycle touring
13. Blind and drapery cleaning
14. Boat maintenance
15. Boat painting
16. Bridal consulting
17. Burglar alarm sales and installation
18. Business consulting
19. Janitorial services
20. Cake delivery
21. Car alarm installer
22. Care of horses and other animals
23. Care of the disabled
24. Care of the elderly
25. Caricaturist
26. Carpet cleaning
27. Catering
28. Cell phone repair
29. Child care
30. Child-care referral and consulting
31. Children's party planning
32. Chimney sweep
33. Christmas tree lot
34. Clown
35. Coaching services
36. Collection agency
37. Commercial freelance writing
38. Companion to the elderly or disabled
39. Computer consultant
40. Computer data retrieval service
41. Computer repair
42. Consignment store
43. Consumer research and protection service
44. Cooking classes
45. Costume sales and rental
46. Corporate coach
47. Courier service
48. Crafts businesses
49. Custom sewing and alterations
50. Dance Instructor
51. Dating service
52. Desktop publishing service
53. Diet consultant
54. Dog grooming
55. Dog training
56. Dog-walking service
57. Drafting and blueprint making
58. Drywaller

59. eBay sales or store
60. Editing and proofreading service
61. Errand service
62. Etiquette training
63. Event planning
64. Faux and decorative painting
65. *Feng Shui* consulting
66. Financial planning services
67. Finder's fee service
68. First aid instructor
69. Flea market sales
70. Flower stands
71. Foreign language instruction
72. Fundraising consultant
73. Furniture refinishing
74. Furniture repair
75. Garage sale organizer
76. Gardening and lawn care
77. Gift basket maker
78. Glass tinters
79. Grant-writing consultant
80. Graphic design services
81. Greeting card sending service
82. Gutter cleaning
83. Handyman
84. Herb farming
85. Holiday decorating, commercial and residential
86. Home inspection service
87. Housecleaning
88. House painting
89. Image consultant
90. Import products
91. In-home child care and day care
92. In-home electronics assembly
93. Indexing
94. Information and research services
95. Information brokering
96. Interior decorating
97. Internet consulting services
98. Jewelry design
99. Jewelry repair
100. Juggler
101. Karaoke DJ
102. Knife sharpening
103. Landscaping
104. Limo service
105. Loan consultant
106. Local tours (walking, bike, car)
107. Lunch delivery service
108. Manicurist
109. Marketing consultant
110. Massage therapy
111. Meal delivery
112. Medical claims processing service
113. Meeting planner
114. Message answering service
115. Mime
116. Mobile disc jockey
117. Mobile dog grooming
118. Mobile hair-cutting services
119. Mobile home repair
120. Mobile locksmith service
121. Mobile tune-up service
122. Mobile television and appliance repair
123. Mobile window-screen repair
124. Monogramming service
125. Mover service
126. Musical instructor
127. Musical instrument maker
128. Musician
129. Nanny placement service
130. Newsletters
131. Novelty sign rental
132. Novelty telegrams
133. Organizational consultant

134. Outdoor guide
135. Outdoor maintenance
136. Packaging and shipping store
137. Party services
138. Personal cook
139. Personal trainer
140. Pest removal
141. Pet grooming
142. Pet-sitting
143. Pet taxi service
144. Piano tuner
145. Picture framing services
146. Plant maintenance
147. Plasterer
148. Pool Service
149. Portrait artist
150. Pottery
151. Prepared foods service
152. Private investigating
153. Process servers
154. Publicist/agent
155. Puppeteer
156. Radon detection service
157. Real estate investor
158. Real estate staging service
159. Recycling service
160. Relocation service
161. Remodeling planning
162. Rental-finding service
163. Restaurant delivery service
164. Resume writing
165. Retailing by kiosk and cart
166. Reunion planning
167. Sandwich stands
168. Self-publishing
169. Seminar production
170. Seminar promotion
171. Shoe repair
172. Shopping service
173. Small business consultant
174. Specialty advertising brokerage
175. Specialty gardening/sprout growing
176. Stand-up comedian
177. Tax preparation service
178. Teaching crafts classes
179. Teaching English to foreign students
180. Telecommunications consultant
181. Translation service
182. Truck and car washing
183. Tutoring
184. Typing, data-entry service
185. Upholstery cleaning
186. Upholstery repair
187. Used bookstore owner
188. Used car inspections
189. Used car assessment
190. Valet parking service
191. Vehicle moving service
192. Vending machine service
193. Virtual assistant
194. Web site design, management, and maintenance services
195. Wedding planner
196. Wallpaper hanging
197. Window cleaning
198. Windshield repair service
199. Writing service
200. Yoga instructor

If you can use some help figuring out what your next calling should be, check out Peter Spellman's empowering mini-courses at Nextcalling.org