THE HONEST AI INCOME SERIES

50 WAYS TO MAKE MONEY with AI



STUDENTS

- ✓ Ready-to-use tools
- ✓ Automation workflows
- ✓ Spreadsheet templates
- ✓ Where to find customers

THE HONEST AI INCOME SERIES

50 Ways to Make Money with AI

for Students

Study-Friendly Ideas with Step-by-Step Prompts, and the Work-Rights and Platform Rules to Check First

Be Ready Education

50 Ways to Make Money with AI for Students
Study-Friendly Ideas with Step-by-Step Prompts, and the Work-Rights and Platform Rules to Check First

The Honest AI Income Series

Copyright © 2026 Be Ready Education Pty Ltd. All rights reserved.

First edition, 2026.

No part of this book may be reproduced in any form without written permission from the publisher, except for brief quotations in a review.

This book is general information only. It is not financial, legal, tax, employment or immigration advice, and it does not promise any income. Prices shown are asking prices on listings or published pay rates, not earnings. Rules and platform terms change; open the official pages yourself before you act.

Product and platform names mentioned in this book belong to their owners and are used only to describe where an idea fits. No endorsement is implied.

How this book is checked

Last updated: 03/11/2026.

Each idea is checked against sources. Here is what that means, and what it does not.

- Sources opened and read: for 36 of 50 ideas, at least one source was opened and read (the date is on each idea, in the line "Source check").
- Of those, 24 ideas have every cited page opened, and 12 have some pages opened and others only seen in search results.
- 8 ideas have no source that we opened and read: their pages were only seen in search results, or we found none. Check those yourself before relying on them.
- 6 ideas are ordinary methods (such as spreadsheet work) that need no outside source. They still tell you where to check the rules.
- Prices shown are asking prices on sellers' listings or published pay rates. They are not what anyone earns. We found no reliable income figures for most ideas, and we do not promise any income.
- Rules change. Platform terms, tax, privacy and advertising rules differ by country and over time. The table "Rules to check yourself" at the end of the book names who to ask.
- **International students:** study visas often limit paid work, and freelancing, online shops and self-employment can count as work. Rules differ by country and by visa. Ask your school's international office before you start any idea, and read the official government page for your visa.
- **Academic integrity:** nothing in this book is about doing someone else's assignments, selling exam answers or passing off AI writing as your own coursework. Check your school's policy on AI before you use it for study. Do not sell lecture recordings, slides or notes that belong to your school or your lecturers.
- This is general information, not legal, tax, financial or immigration advice.
- Found a mistake or a broken link? Tell us and we will fix it and update the date.

A note before we start

This book is not financial, legal, tax or immigration advice. We do not promise that you will earn anything. Many people earn nothing from some of these ideas, and some ideas will not suit you.

Where we found a reliable income figure, we show it with its source. Where we did not, the card says so plainly. We never invent numbers, stories or customers.

Rules change. Platform terms, visa work limits and laws are updated often. Every card shows the date we read each source. Please open the official pages yourself before you act, and ask your school's international office about your own work rights.

Hello, and welcome

You do not need to be a computer expert, and you do not need money to begin. You only need a little time and a willingness to try, check and try again.

Think of this book as a friendly menu. There are 50 ideas. Each one is on its own few pages, laid out the same way, so you always know where to look. Pick one that feels doable. Ignore the rest for now.

Good news for busy students: every idea has a **Your first hour** section, so you can find out in one sitting whether it suits you. And every idea has **copy-and-paste prompts**, so you never face a blank screen.

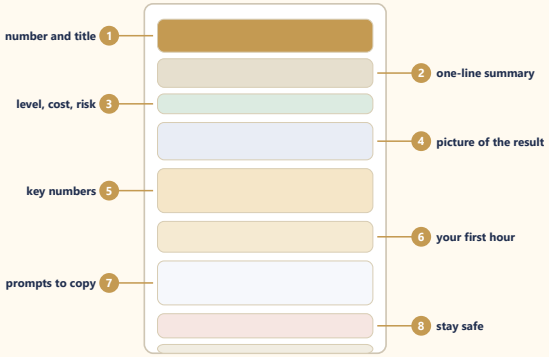
A promise from us: we would rather tell you an idea is crowded or risky than sell you a dream.



A gentle path from the first idea to a keepable habit. Money is never guaranteed, and you can stop at any step.

How each idea page works

What this is	One or two plain sentences on what you would actually do.
Badges	**Green** easy, low cost or low risk **Amber** some skill, money or care needed **Red** hard, costly or risky
At a glance	How soon money might arrive, what it can earn (only with a source), weekly hours, how crowded it is.
Is this a good fit for you?	Honest notes for students, including what to do if you only have an hour a day.
Your first hour	Small numbered steps so you can start today.
Copy-and-paste prompts	Four steps: research, build a sample, find your first client or listing, then check and improve.
Stay safe	The platform rules, red flags and student-visa reminders for that idea.
Where this comes from	Our sources, whether we opened them, and the date we read them.



Using the prompts well

1. **Fill in the brackets.** Anything in [CAPITALS AND BRACKETS] is for you to replace with your own details.
2. **Keep private things private.** Never paste other people's personal information, passwords or confidential documents into an AI tool unless you have read its terms and have permission.
3. **Check everything.** AI can sound sure and be wrong. Open the sources it names. Never publish or send a fact you have not checked yourself.
4. **Be honest about using AI.** If a client, platform or school asks, say how you used it. Some platforms require a label.
5. **Do your own schoolwork.** Nothing in this book is about doing someone else's assignments. That is cheating, and it can end your studies.

A word about international students

Work rules differ by country, school and visa. For example, Australia limits student-visa work to 48 hours per fortnight during study periods, and the University of New South Wales says contract work under an ABN counts. US F-1 students need written authorisation for off-campus work. Sources: UNSW, Study Australia, USC, read 29/10/2026.

Self-employment, freelancing and online shops can count as work. **Ask your school's international office before you start.**

Spotting money-making scams

Real opportunities rarely need a big upfront payment. Be careful if someone:

- promises guaranteed income or "passive income" with AI
- charges a large fee for a "done for you" store, channel or agency
- asks for your bank details, channel login or a refundable "deposit" early
- bans you from leaving a negative review

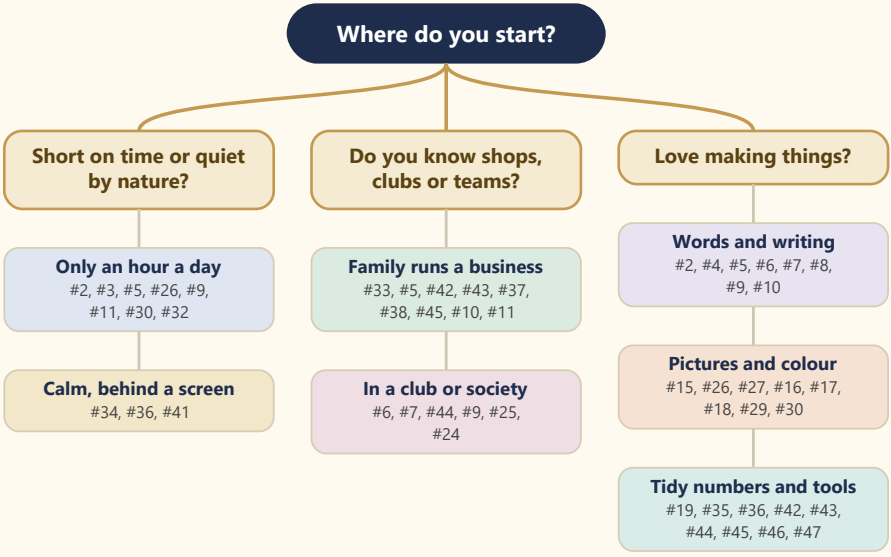
The US Federal Trade Commission has taken action against several AI-branded business schemes with deceptive earnings claims. See the FTC announcement, September 2024, read 29/10/2026.

This book also leaves out ideas that depend on fake reviews, spam, copied work, dishonest academic work, or gambling.

Many ways, but not one for everyone

There are 50 ideas in this book, and that is on purpose. **You are not meant to do them all.** Each idea suits a different kind of life: a different pace, different interests, and different people around you.

A night owl who loves drawing and a busy parent who likes spreadsheets will pick very different ideas. A student whose uncle runs a cafe has a head start on some ideas, and a student who knows the whole chess club has a head start on others. All of that is fine. Use what you already have.



Pick by what you enjoy

You love words and writing	#2, #4, #5, #6, #7, #8, #9, #10, #11, #12, #13
You think in pictures and colours	#15, #26, #27, #16, #17, #18, #29, #30, #31, #32
You like tidy numbers and detail	#19, #34, #35, #36, #42, #43, #44, #45, #46, #47, #40, #41
You enjoy explaining things	#14, #20, #21, #22, #23, #24
You speak another language	#3, #21, #30
You are chatty and enjoy people	#33, #37, #38, #44, #11, #25
You prefer quiet time behind a screen	#3, #26, #34, #36, #32, #41
You are curious about tech	#42, #46, #47, #48, #49, #50
You only have an hour a day	#2, #3, #5, #26, #9, #11, #30, #32

Pick by the people you already know

You are in a club, society or team	#6, #7, #44, #9, #25, #24
A relative or friend runs a shop, cafe or small business	#33, #5, #42, #43, #37, #38, #45, #10, #11, #46, #29, #47, #41
You know people who make videos, podcasts or social media	#27, #28, #30, #31, #13, #40

Friends are job hunting, or you are	#4, #1, #24
You have classmates and study groups	#14, #20, #22, #23
Someone you know rents out a room or home	#39
You know very few people locally (that is fine)	#15, #16, #17, #18, #19, #21

Not sure? Choose two that make you curious, do the **Your first hour** section of each, and keep the one that felt lighter.

The map of all 50 ideas

Every idea in one picture. The colour shows which part of the book it lives in.

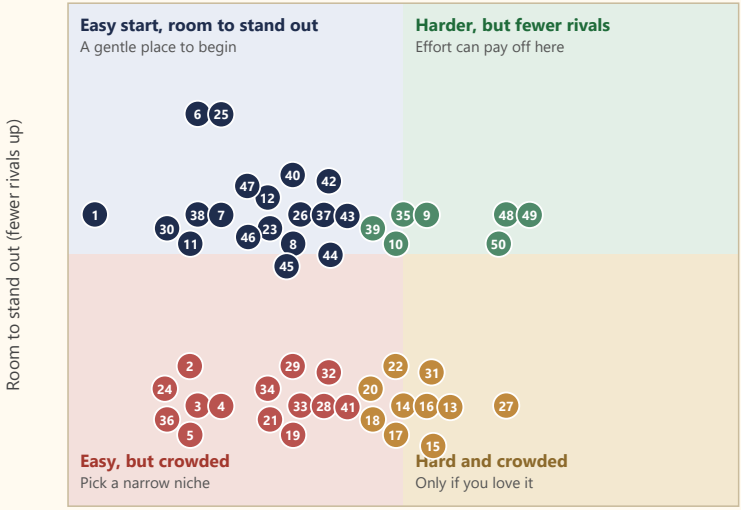
Start here · Words that work · Study it, make it, share it · Pictures, sound and video · Help the business down the street · Little tools, built with a spreadsheet · Let the computer do the boring bits

1 Build a Portfolio First	2 Proofreading and Editing for Clients	3 Transcription Clean-Up	4 Resume and Cover-Letter Polish for...	5 Product Description Writing
6 Newsletter Writing for Clubs and...	7 Event-Page and Listing Copywriting	8 A One-Page Voice Guide for Small...	9 Meeting Notes and Minutes for Clubs...	10 Job-Ad and Job-Description Writing...
11 Drafting Replies to REAL Customer...	12 FAQ Pages and Help-Centre Articles...	13 Voice-Over and Explainer-Video Scripts	14 Study-Notes and Flashcard Templates	15 Digital Planners and Study Templates
16 Canva Template Shops	17 Print-on-Demand Design	18 Low-Content and Activity Books on...	19 Spreadsheet Templates	20 Tutoring Prep Materials
21 Language-Practice Content	22 Turn Your OWN Course Notes into a...	23 Course Outlines and Lesson Plans...	24 Interview-Prep Practice Sets	25 Event Run-Sheets and Planning...
26 Alt Text and Accessibility Labels	27 Faceless Explainer Channels	28 Podcast Show-Notes Service	29 Menu and Price-List Design for...	30 Captions and Subtitles for Short...
31 Repurposing a Client's OWN Video...	32 Background Clean-Up and Basic Photo...	33 Social Media Scheduling for Local...	34 Survey and Data-Cleaning Gigs	35 Research Summaries and Market Scans...
36 Data-Entry and Spreadsheet Clean-Up...	37 Appointment-Booking and Form Set-Up	38 Local Business Listing Refresh	39 Rental or Holiday-Listing Copy for...	40 Niche Research Reports for Channel...
41 Simple Google Sheets Dashboards for...	42 A Quote Calculator for a Local Service	43 A Recipe and Menu Costing Sheet for...	44 A Fees and Attendance Tracker for a...	45 A Stock and Profit Tracker for a...
46 A Low-Stock Alert and Reorder Sheet...	47 An Order Form with Automatic Totals...	48 Weekly Content-Calendar Workflow...	49 Receipt and Invoice Capture into a...	50 Contact-Form to Follow-up Email...

Hard does not mean bad

On each idea page you will see badges for difficulty, cost and risk. A **red badge is not a stop sign**. It is a price tag.

In most markets, the harder an idea is to start, the fewer people finish it. So a harder idea can mean **less competition**, and a skill that is **harder for newcomers to copy**. An easy idea has the opposite problem: anyone can start it tomorrow, so you have to stand out.



Effort to start: difficulty, cost and risk (easier on the left, harder on the right)

Each dot is one idea, numbered as in the menu. Positions are our own rough judgement from the notes on each idea page, not a measurement, and not a promise of income. A dot in the top right is not guaranteed to pay more. It simply asks more of you and meets fewer rivals.

- **Top left:** easy and with room. A friendly first project.
- **Top right:** hard but quiet. Worth it if the skill excites you.
- **Bottom left:** easy but busy. Choose a narrow niche.
- **Bottom right:** hard and busy. Only if you truly love it.

Choose your AI helper first

Every idea in this book uses an AI chat tool. You only need **one**. Here is a friendly way to choose.

Claude	Made by Anthropic. There is a free desktop app for Windows and Mac, plus the website and a phone app. Good at careful writing and long documents. Download page: claude.com/download.
ChatGPT	Made by OpenAI. There is a ChatGPT app for Windows (from the Microsoft Store) and for Mac, plus the website and a phone app. The most widely used, so lots of help is online. Get it only from OpenAI's official pages or the official store.
Gemini	Made by Google. Works in a browser, and Google has also released a Gemini app for Windows (reported September 2026). Handy if you already live in Google Docs, Sheets and Gmail. Page: gemini.google/desktop.
Copilot	Made by Microsoft. Built into Windows 11, so there is nothing extra to install. A fine place to start if you have a Windows PC and want to try today.

Why we suggest the desktop app

- **It stays open beside your work.** You can keep the app on one side of the screen and your document on the other.
- **It is easier to attach files** such as a client's text, a spreadsheet or a photo.
- **Your saved helpers live there.** Each idea in this book ends with a small helper you save in your AI tool. The app keeps them one click away.
- **Fewer distractions.** A single app window is calmer than a browser with thirty tabs.

Which one should you pick?

If you already have an account with one of them, **start there**. If you are not sure, try the same prompt in two tools and keep the one whose answers you have to fix least. You never need to pay to follow this book. Free plans have usage limits, and the limits and features change often, so check each company's page before you rely on anything.

Features and free limits were read from search results and company pages on 30/10/2026 and may have changed. Please check the official pages.

Two quick safety habits

- **Look at the privacy settings.** Find out whether your chats may be used to improve the AI, and switch that off if you prefer. Never paste a client's private details unless you have their permission.
- **Keep your accounts yours.** Use a strong, unique password and turn on two-step sign-in. Never share your login with a client or a "buyer".



Keep what you build: your own reusable helper

Here is the best part of this book. Most guides give you a prompt that works once. We want you to leave each idea with something you can **use again and again**.

At the end of every idea there is a box called **Keep it: your own reusable helper**. It has a ready-made set of instructions. You save it once inside your own AI tool, and from then on you only type the details of each new job.

1. Create	In your AI app, make a new **Project** (Claude or ChatGPT), a **custom GPT** (ChatGPT) or a **Gem** (Gemini). The names differ, the idea is the same: a saved assistant with standing instructions.
2. Paste	Give it the name from the box and paste the instructions into its instruction field.
3. Use	Next time, open it and type the short line shown under **Each time you use it**. No need to start from a blank screen.
4. Check	You stay in charge. Read the answer, fix it, and tick the **Check yourself** list before anything goes to a client.

Menu names and steps vary between tools and change over time. If you cannot find the right button, search the tool's help for "projects", "custom GPTs" or "Gems".

Contents

Part 1: Start here

1. Build a Portfolio First (3 Samples, Zero Cost)29

Part 2: Words that work

2. Proofreading and Editing for Clients35
3. Transcription Clean-Up41
4. Resume and Cover-Letter Polish for Peers47
5. Product Description Writing52
6. Newsletter Writing for Clubs and Societies57
7. Event-Page and Listing Copywriting63
8. A One-Page Voice Guide for Small Brands69
9. Meeting Notes and Minutes for Clubs and Small Teams75
10. Job-Ad and Job-Description Writing for Local Employers81
11. Drafting Replies to REAL Customer Reviews for Local Businesses88
12. FAQ Pages and Help-Centre Articles for Small Businesses94
13. Voice-Over and Explainer-Video Scripts100

Part 3: Study it, make it, share it

14. Study-Notes and Flashcard Templates107
15. Digital Planners and Study Templates113
16. Canva Template Shops119
17. Print-on-Demand Design125
18. Low-Content and Activity Books on Amazon KDP131
19. Spreadsheet Templates (Google Sheets / Excel) Sold on a Marketplace137
20. Tutoring Prep Materials (Study Guides, Practice Sets) for Subjects You Are Strong In143
21. Language-Practice Content (Worksheets, Dialogues)149
22. Turn Your OWN Course Notes into a Sellable Study Guide155
23. Course Outlines and Lesson Plans for Subject Experts163
24. Interview-Prep Practice Sets169
25. Event Run-Sheets and Planning Checklists for Clubs175

Part 4: Pictures, sound and video

26. Alt Text and Accessibility Labels182
27. Faceless Explainer Channels188

28. Podcast Show-Notes Service194
29. Menu and Price-List Design for Cafes with Canva200
30. Captions and Subtitles for Short Videos (Accessibility)206
31. Repurposing a Client's OWN Video into Short Clips212
32. Background Clean-Up and Basic Photo Editing for Online Sellers218

Part 5: Help the business down the street

33. Social Media Scheduling for Local Shops225
34. Survey and Data-Cleaning Gigs231
35. Research Summaries and Market Scans for Small Businesses236
36. Data-Entry and Spreadsheet Clean-Up Help242
37. Appointment-Booking and Form Set-Up248
38. Local Business Listing Refresh (Google Business Profile)254
39. Rental or Holiday-Listing Copy for Property Owners260
40. Niche Research Reports for Channel or Shop Owners266
41. Simple Google Sheets Dashboards for Small Businesses272

Part 6: Little tools, built with a spreadsheet

42. A Quote Calculator for a Local Service278
43. A Recipe and Menu Costing Sheet for a Cafe or Home Baker284
44. A Fees and Attendance Tracker for a Class or Club291
45. A Stock and Profit Tracker for a Market Stall or Online Seller298
46. A Low-Stock Alert and Reorder Sheet for a Small Shop305
47. An Order Form with Automatic Totals for Home Bakers and Caterers312

Part 7: Let the computer do the boring bits

48. Weekly Content-Calendar Workflow for a Small Business (with n8n)320
49. Receipt and Invoice Capture into a Spreadsheet Workflow (with n8n)326
50. Contact-Form to Follow-up Email Draft Workflow (with n8n)332

The whole menu at a glance

A quick way to pick: start with green. Each little picture shows the level at a glance: three bars for difficulty, coins for cost, a shield for risk.

#	Idea	Level	Cost	Risk
1	Build a Portfolio First (3 Samples, Zero Cost)	Beginner	Free	Low
2	Proofreading and Editing for Clients	Beginner	Free to Low	Medium
3	Transcription Clean-Up	Beginner	Free to Low	Medium
4	Resume and Cover-Letter Polish for Peers	Beginner	Free	Medium
5	Product Description Writing	Beginner	Free	Medium
6	Newsletter Writing for Clubs and Societies	Beginner	Free	Low to Medium
7	Event-Page and Listing Copywriting	Beginner	Free	Medium
8	A One-Page Voice Guide for Small Brands	Intermediate	Free	Medium
9	Meeting Notes and Minutes for Clubs and Small Teams	Beginner to Intermediate	Free to Low	Medium to High
10	Job-Ad and Job-Description Writing for Local Employers	Intermediate	Free to Low	Medium to High
11	Drafting Replies to REAL Customer Reviews for Local Businesses	Beginner	Free	Medium
12	FAQ Pages and Help-Centre Articles for Small Businesses	Beginner to Intermediate	Free	Medium
13	Voice-Over and Explainer-Video Scripts	Beginner to Intermediate	Free to Low	Medium to High
14	Study-Notes and Flashcard Templates	Beginner to Intermediate	Free to Low	Medium to High
15	Digital Planners and Study Templates	Intermediate	Low	Medium to High
16	Canva Template Shops	Intermediate	Free to Low	Medium to High

17	Print-on-Demand Design	Intermediate	Free to Low	High
18	Low-Content and Activity Books on Amazon KDP	Intermediate	Free to Low	Medium to High
19	Spreadsheet Templates (Google Sheets / Excel) Sold on a Marketplace	Intermediate	Free to Low	Medium
20	Tutoring Prep Materials (Study Guides, Practice Sets) for Subjects You Are Strong In	Intermediate	Free to Low	High if you cross the academic line
21	Language-Practice Content (Worksheets, Dialogues)	Intermediate	Free to Low	Medium
22	Turn Your OWN Course Notes into a Sellable Study Guide	Intermediate	Free to Low	High
23	Course Outlines and Lesson Plans for Subject Experts	Intermediate	Free to Low	Medium
24	Interview-Prep Practice Sets	Beginner	Free	Medium
25	Event Run-Sheets and Planning Checklists for Clubs	Beginner	Free	Medium
26	Alt Text and Accessibility Labels	Beginner to Intermediate	Free	Medium
27	Faceless Explainer Channels	Intermediate to Advanced	Free to Low	High
28	Podcast Show-Notes Service	Beginner to Intermediate	Free to Low	Medium
29	Menu and Price-List Design for Cafes with Canva	Beginner to Intermediate	Free to Low	Medium
30	Captions and Subtitles for Short Videos (Accessibility)	Beginner	Free	Low to Medium
31	Repurposing a Client's OWN Video into Short Clips	Intermediate	Free to Low	High if you skip permission
32	Background Clean-Up and Basic Photo Editing for Online Sellers	Beginner to Intermediate	Free to Low	Medium
33	Social Media Scheduling for Local Shops	Beginner to Intermediate	Free to Low	Medium
34	Survey and Data-Cleaning Gigs	Beginner	Free	Medium to High

35	Research Summaries and Market Scans for Small Businesses	Intermediate	Free to Low	Medium to High
36	Data-Entry and Spreadsheet Clean-Up Help	Beginner	Free	Medium
37	Appointment-Booking and Form Set-Up	Beginner to Intermediate	Free to Low	Medium
38	Local Business Listing Refresh (Google Business Profile)	Beginner	Free	Medium
39	Rental or Holiday-Listing Copy for Property Owners	Beginner to Intermediate	Free to Low	Medium to High
40	Niche Research Reports for Channel or Shop Owners	Intermediate	Free to Low	Medium
41	Simple Google Sheets Dashboards for Small Businesses	Intermediate	Free	Medium
42	A Quote Calculator for a Local Service	Intermediate	Free	Medium
43	A Recipe and Menu Costing Sheet for a Cafe or Home Baker	Intermediate	Free	Medium
44	A Fees and Attendance Tracker for a Class or Club	Intermediate	Free	Medium
45	A Stock and Profit Tracker for a Market Stall or Online Seller	Beginner to Intermediate	Free	Medium
46	A Low-Stock Alert and Reorder Sheet for a Small Shop	Intermediate	Free	Medium
47	An Order Form with Automatic Totals for Home Bakers and Caterers	Intermediate	Free	Medium
48	Weekly Content-Calendar Workflow for a Small Business (with n8n)	Advanced	Free to Low	High
49	Receipt and Invoice Capture into a Spreadsheet Workflow (with n8n)	Advanced	Free to Low	High
50	Contact-Form to Follow-up Email Draft Workflow (with n8n)	Advanced	Free to Low	High

Finding your first client

The hardest part is not the work. It is the first person who says yes. Here are the places to look, from the friendliest to the boldest. Each idea page names the best two or three to try first.

People you know	**Easiest.** Family, friends, flatmates, past bosses and coaches. Say clearly what you do and who it helps. Offer your first job at a friendly price in return for an honest comment.
Campus clubs	**Very friendly.** Societies, sports clubs and student groups always need newsletters, posters, minutes and event pages. Ask the committee, or the student union.
Local shops	**Walk in and say hello.** Cafes, salons, gyms and tradies are busy and rarely have time for this kind of work. Bring one printed sample made for their business.
Online shelf	**They come to you.** Marketplaces and stores such as Etsy, Gumroad, Payhip or KDP list your product. Slower at first, then it can run quietly. Read each platform's rules before you start.
Freelance sites	**Crowded but real.** Sites like Fiverr or Upwork have many sellers. Stand out with a narrow service, three good samples and clear prices.
Creators	**Small creators need help.** Offer a free sample to a small YouTuber, podcaster or Instagram maker whose work you admire, then ask if they would like more.

How to ask, without feeling awkward

1. **Make one small sample first.** A real sample for that client beats a long message.
2. **Keep the message short and personal.** Say why you picked them, what you made, and one clear next step.
3. **Offer a low-risk first job.** A small paid test, or a free sample on the clear understanding that it is a sample.
4. **Make it easy to say no.** Polite, honest messages get better replies and protect your name.
5. **Follow up once.** A kind reminder after a week is fine. Then move on.

Try A friendly first message (edit the brackets)

```
Hi [NAME],

I'm [YOUR NAME], a student who helps [TYPE OF BUSINESS] with [WHAT
YOU DO]. I noticed [ONE SPECIFIC, TRUE THING ABOUT THEM].

I made a short sample for you: [ATTACH OR LINK]. There is no
obligation at all. If it is useful, I would love to do [SMALL FIRST
JOB] for [PRICE]. If it is not for you, no worries, and thank you
for looking.

[YOUR NAME]
```

Rules for cold messages

Many countries regulate unsolicited commercial messages, for example CAN-SPAM in the US, the Spam Act in Australia, CASL in Canada and PECR in the UK. In general: be honest about who you are, contact people who plausibly want what you offer, include a simple way to opt out, and do not mass-message. Rules differ, so read the official guidance for your country. Never buy email lists, never use fake reviews, and never claim results you do not have.

Ready to charge?

Start with a fair, simple price you can explain. Tell the client exactly what is included. Keep a short written agreement or message trail, and remember that earnings may count as income for tax and, for some students, may be limited by a visa. See the note for international students earlier in this book.

PART 1

Start here

Before you try any idea, build the one thing every idea needs: proof that you can do the work.

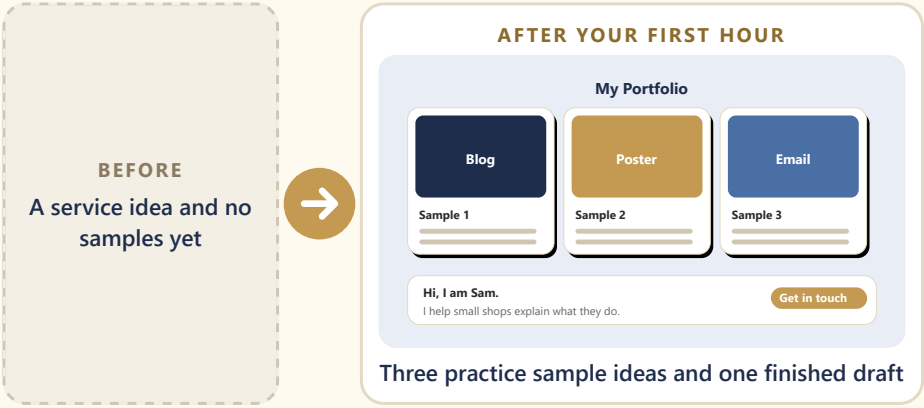
1

1 Build a Portfolio First (3 Samples, Zero Cost)

Before you take any paid work, you make three small samples that show what you can do. Think of them as your first business cards. Label each one honestly (made for practice, AI-assisted or not).

Difficulty Beginner | **Cost** Free | **Risk** Low | **Crowd** Not applicable

The balance. A gentle start with room to stand out. A good place to begin.



Three samples that show what you can do. *An invented example for illustration, not a real client or result.*

Where to look first: People you know | Campus clubs (see "Finding your first client")

At a glance

How soon might money arrive?	Not a paid idea itself; this is the step before you take any paid work

What can it earn?	No reliable income figure found.
Time each week and what AI does	6 to 10 hrs once; AI drafts, you edit and label
Does it grow?	Reusable across many other ideas in this book
How crowded is it?	Not applicable; a portfolio supports your pitch rather than being a product
Where it fits	 US  UK  AU  CA
Skill level	Beginner
Money to start	Free
What can go wrong	Low: do not use client work without permission, do not fake testimonials

Is this a good fit for you?

Hours: small blocks in quiet weeks are enough. Capital: none. Skills: pick one idea from this book. There is no risk to your visa or study if you do not take paid work yet.

Only 1 hour a day? One sample a week, and in three weeks you will have three.

Your first hour

About an hour in all, one small step at a time

1. Choose ONE service from this book.
2. Run Prompt 1 to define three sample projects.
3. Make sample 1 with Prompt 2.

Copy-and-paste prompts

Paste each one into any AI chat tool. Replace every [BRACKET] with your own details first. Read the answer critically before you use it.

Step 1 Research

```
I want to offer [SERVICE FROM THIS BOOK] to [TYPE OF CLIENT] in
[YOUR COUNTRY]. Suggest 3 different practice samples that would show
a prospective client what I can do, using only imaginary or public-
domain material or my own text. For each: the brief, the finished
piece (length and format), and what skill it shows. Tell me how to
label each sample honestly, including how I used AI.
```

What to look for. A good answer suggests three practice samples, each with a brief, format, skill shown and an honest AI label.

Step 2 Build a sample

```
Create sample 1: [PASTE THE BRIEF]. Use only this material: [PASTE
YOUR OWN OR PUBLIC-DOMAIN MATERIAL]. First give me a draft. Then
list 5 things in the draft I must verify or improve myself. Do not
invent customer names, reviews, results or statistics. Add a one
line label at the end: "Practice sample, made with AI assistance and
edited by [YOUR NAME]."
```

What to look for. A good answer gives a draft of sample 1, five things for you to verify, and a one line practice label.

Step 3 Find first client or listing

```
Help me present my 3 samples on one free page (a shared document or
free site). Suggest the order, a 40 word "about me" that makes no
income or results promises, and a call to action. Then draft a short
message to send a real prospect in [YOUR COUNTRY]. It should point
to ONE relevant sample. Do not include fake testimonials or invented
past clients.
```

What to look for. A good answer suggests an order for your samples, a 40 word about me without promises, and one short message.

Step 4 Check and improve

```
Review my portfolio as a hiring manager would: [PASTE]. Tell me
which sample is weakest, what is unclear, and whether any claim
could be read as misleading (for example implying paid client work).
List the facts I must double check. I will fix them myself.
```

What to look for. A good answer names the weakest sample, anything unclear or misleading, and a list of facts for you to double check.

Keep it: your own reusable helper

You have just done the job once. Now save it as a small helper inside your own AI tool, so next time it takes two minutes. Name it **My Portfolio Sample Helper** and paste this into its instructions.

Save Instructions for your helper

```
You are my portfolio sample helper. I am a student building
three honest practice samples for one service from this book,
before I take any paid work. I have no clients yet.

Ask me, one short question at a time: the service, the type of
client, my country, and which sample number I am working on.
Ask me to paste the brief and the material, which must be
imaginary, public domain or my own text.

Output format:
- A draft of the sample
- A list of 5 things I must verify or improve myself
- A final label: "Practice sample, made with AI assistance and
edited by [YOUR NAME]."
When asked, also a one page layout for my 3 samples, a 40 word
"about me" and a short message pointing to ONE relevant sample.

Rules:
- Label every sample as practice. Never present practice work
as paid client work.
- Never use a real client's work without permission.
- Never invent customer names, testimonials, reviews, results,
statistics or past clients. Write [MISSING] when a fact is
absent.
- No income or results promises in my "about me".
- Flag anything unclear or that could be read as misleading.
- Remind me to read the rules of any site I use to host
samples, and to ask my school's international office before
taking paid work.

Keep language plain and friendly. I edit everything and a human
stays in charge.
```

Where. Claude: create a Project and paste into Project instructions. ChatGPT: create a Project or custom GPT and paste into Instructions. Gemini: create a Gem and paste into Instructions.

Each time you use it. Paste the brief and your own or public domain material, then write: "Task = sample 2 of 3 for [SERVICE]."

Check yourself, every time.

- Is each sample labelled as practice, with no fake testimonials or implied paid clients?
- Did I check every fact and use only material I am allowed to use?

Stay safe

The rules to know. Label practice work as practice. Use only your own or public-domain material. No fake testimonials or reviews (see FTC link in #25). If you use a platform to host samples, read its AI and content rules.

Red flags. Anyone asking for "free samples" that are really the real job.

If you are an international student. Paid work may be limited by your visa. See "A word about international students" near the start of this book, and ask your school's international office before you start.

Where this comes from. Source check: opened and read on 29/10/2026 FTC Endorsement Guides page, read 29/10/2026 (endorsements must reflect honest experience). No other source needed for the method; we give no income claim.

PART 2

Words that work

Writing, editing and wording jobs. If you like language, start in this part.

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13