

# Could you be your own boss?



It is always a good idea to take stock of your career and working life, by regularly reviewing your position you can ensure that you will not wake up one morning wondering how you ended up where you are. To feel fulfilled and satisfied at work you need to regularly review your progress, make new decisions and then act upon them, it is important to stay in charge. When assessing your career, first take a look at your past, for instance look back on your last year and think about the things that that you were happy with in your working life and the things that you would like to change. This will give you an indication about the decisions you must make.

Think about your future, where would you like your career to be a year from now? Perhaps you would like a complete career change, or you want to be promoted, or maybe you would like to cut back on your working time and have more time for yourself.

Compare your assessment of where you are now with your future career desires. Don't be disconcerted if you find that there is a huge gap between the two, with careful planning and determination big gaps can be crossed in a remarkably short space of time. Draw up a list of goals, to get you from where you are now to where you want to be. Work out what you need to do, perhaps you need more training, or you need to work longer hours, or maybe you need to raise money to start your own business. Finally, you must be prepared to act out your plan, the secret of success is to keep going – no matter what.

If you have decided that your real desire is to work for yourself, whether it is freelancing for another Company, or running your own business you must consider whether this lifestyle would really work for you. Ask yourself these six questions to find out whether you are ready to be your own boss.

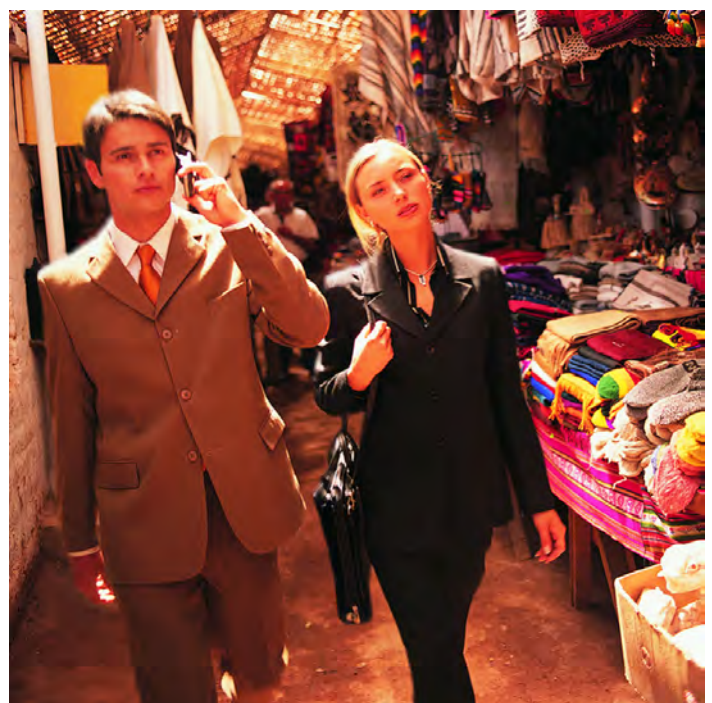


Are you self-reliant?

Are you good at managing your own time? Can you motivate yourself without encouragement from team mates and can you be productive when you have to create your own structure?

Do you want variety?

Most successful freelancers hunger for variety, they tire of monotony and thrive on the challenge of new projects, working environments and business contacts. Are you the type of person who enjoys change?



Do you want to learn?

To start your own business or to freelance will mean that you will have to constantly expand your skills. In fact it's often necessary to keep learning new skills to ensure that you stay competitive and secure customers and clients.

Do you want a better work/home life balance?

You only live once, so make the most of it. Working for yourself means that you are able to control your hours, it is easier to reserve time for family, hobbies and other personal interests. Are you happy with your set working hours or do you desire more freedom.



Are you tired of office politics?

Do you want freedom from the complex politics that preoccupy many full-time employees struggling to climb the corporate ladder? Do you enjoy the inter-office mind games or do you want out? By working on a contract or project basis you will be able to focus on the quality of your work rather than what is going on around you.

Can you afford to do it?

Are you prepared for your income to drop. Initially most people who work for themselves will experience a drop in their income. Ask yourself what is the minimum amount you need to live on each month and then break that down into an hourly rate based on how many hours you anticipate working. Take a look at your current expenditure and see where you can cut down, then assess what you need to get started.

If you have answered Yes to all of the above questions then you are probably ready to go it alone – Good Luck!