

# 38 Fun Ways To Earn \$500 By Next Weekend

## 1. Rent Your Car Out

The gig economy is always coming up with creative ideas for regular people to earn some extra money. If you own a car, you can make some easy cash by renting it out through an app called [Turo.com](https://www.turo.com).

Don't worry, every car gets a \$1 million insurance policy, plus they pre-screen drivers, so your car will be in good hands.

How much money can you make? It depends on the car, where it's located, and how much you decide to charge.

This guy makes over \$1000 per month, per car (he has a fleet now). To earn good money, don't rent out the same car you use to get around every day (and use public transport).

## 2. Become A Virtual Bookkeeper

Every small business needs a bookkeeper. I've got one too. Basically, they organize and track income and expenses, so a business owner can spend time on the things they're good at — running the business. And you don't need to be a professional accountant in order to become a bookkeeper either!

Competent bookkeepers can handle multiple clients, and make a good side income for themselves while working from home, as almost all financial information can be tracked online these days. With only 3-4 clients, a part-time (10 hours per week) bookkeeper can make an extra \$10,000 a year. Being good with numbers helps!

## 3. Recharge Electric Scooters

Renting electric scooters has become big business in cities like San Diego, Los Angeles, Austin, Paris, and Nashville. Companies like [Bird](https://www.bird.com) & [Lime](https://www.lime.com) hire regular people to pick them up and recharge overnight in their homes, dropping the scooters off on the street the next morning.

The reward for finding and charging each scooter is between \$5-\$20, and it's like a fun GPS scavenger hunt, playing to win against other "bird hunters" or "lime juicers". If you have a truck or van, and can grab 10 each night, that's an extra \$50-\$100+ per day!

#### **4. List Your Room (Or House)**

I'm sure by now you've heard of the online marketplace Airbnb.com, which allows regular people to list their homes or spare rooms to traveling guests. I've been using it for years to find good cheap accommodation on my trips around the world.

Well, all those people I'm renting from are making extra income by listing their space. Some have turned it into a regular side business, buying up properties in order to list them out to tourists. If you have your own place, you can do the same.

#### **5. Make Extra Money As A Tutor**

You'd be surprised how many people are looking for a professional tutor. For example, foreign students trying to improve their English. Or high-school kids that need help with college exams like the SAT or ACT. Or even the traditional homework tutor.

Businessmen in Hong Kong and the Middle East pay up to \$25 an hour for someone to talk to them in English, helping them improve their skills. All you need is a wifi connection and Skype [for this type of remote job](#), allowing you to work from anywhere in the world.

#### **6. Transcribe & Caption Videos**

If you haven't noticed, online video has exploded in the last few years. YouTube alone is the 2nd biggest site on the internet. Facebook is #3, with their own huge video platform.

Video creators know that to get their uploads noticed, transcribing the audio into text helps. I do it with my YouTube videos. Many people also watch videos with the sound off, so captions become very important.

If you're a fast typer, you can make extra money typing out what people are saying in these videos through a few companies that specialize in providing this service. The pay is around \$10 an hour.

Popular transcription companies:

[Rev](#)  
[3Play Media](#)

#### **7. Become A Virtual Assistant**

As the world becomes increasingly connected online, more and more tasks can be accomplished without meeting face-to-face. This has opened up a whole new job demand for "virtual assistants", or online personal assistants who help business owners with mundane work they can't do themselves.

What kinds of work? Data entry. Social media management. Formatting. Editing. Online research. Email management. Graphic design. Booking travel. The list is endless! My own virtual assistant, Jess, makes my life easier by allowing me to focus on what I do best. Virtual assistants can earn between \$15 – \$35 an hour.

## **8. Become A Freelance Proofreader**

This one is for you grammar fanatics! Proofreading entails going over each word of someone else's writing — correcting it for punctuation, formatting, and any other errors that may occur. My mom is my proofreader (thanks Mom!).

Proofreading court transcripts is in especially high demand, as it allows court reporters to focus on what they're good at, typing fast during legal proceedings. By hiring others to proofread, these reporters can book more gigs, and make more money.

Before she started a blog, Caitlin Pyle was earning \$43k a year working 20-30 hour weeks as a freelance proofreader. But you can work as much or as little as you want to.

## **9. Language Translation Jobs**

Are you fluent in another language? Online translation is one of the best careers for working from home. You can work as little or as much as you want, earning extra money translating websites, books, presentations, and more from your computer.

My friend Alexandra earns up to six-figures as a freelance translator from English to Spanish, allowing her the freedom to travel while she works. To make good money you need to build up some experience first though.

## **10. Pet Sitting & House Sitting**

Getting paid to take care of other people's cute dogs & cats? Sign me up! As a cat owner myself, we hire pet sitters when we need to travel for work, and can't bring Poofy (but sometimes we do). We often use the pet sitting app Rover.

At an average of \$16 per 30 minute visit, that's about \$32 an hour to hang out with pets. There are other sites too, like Wag (for dog walking) and Trusted House Sitters where you actually house-sit for people, in exotic foreign countries if you want to, in exchange for taking care of their pets.

## **11. Amazon Furniture Assembly**

Are you one of those people who loves putting together IKEA type furniture? Well, this one's for you! There's a lot of lazy people who buy furniture or appliances on Amazon.com, but don't want to put it together when it arrives. Wall mount TVs. Bed frames. Dressers.

Amazon charges an extra fee for "assembly" and farms the work to independent contractors nearby. Like you! A typical build takes about an hour. Earning \$2000 – \$6000 a month is possible, and you can set your schedule to only work evenings or weekends if you have a day job.

A business license and business insurance are needed to get started, and depending on your state, those might cost a few hundred dollars.

## **12. Become A Local Tour Guide**

Do love your hometown or city, and want to show others the best parts of it? There's a market for local tour guides in different tourist hot-spots around the world. One of the coolest ways to do this is by offering free walking tours... wait, but how do you make money if they're free?! TIPS.

As a GuRuWalk city guide, you take people on free walks around the city, and if they enjoy it, you collect (and keep) any tips afterward. Let's say you have 10 guests, and they each tip \$5 after an hour-long tour. That's \$50 an hour! Or, you can try offering unique travel experience through AirBnB Experiences.

## **13. Drive For Uber And Lyft**

Now anyone can become a taxi driver! Uber and Lyft are the leading rideshare companies and have changed local transportation forever. Working for them as a driver can help you make some extra money on nights and weekends, even if you already have a day job.

To drive for them, you need to be at least 21 years old, have a few years of driving experience under your belt, and own your own decent 4-door car (it can't be a beater). Many drivers I've met work for both companies at the same time.

## **14. Deliver Packages For Flex**

Never heard of Amazon Flex? It's a package delivery platform that allows you to be your own boss, set your own schedule and make between \$18-\$25 per hour!

Once you've registered online, you let them know which times work best for you, then you head off to pick up other people's packages. As soon as you've scanned them, the app shows you where to go and suggests directions for the quickest route.

Want to see how much you've made at the end of the day? In true Amazon style, it couldn't be easier to monitor your earnings through their app.

### **15. Food Delivery Side Job**

Instead of driving people around, what about bringing them food? There's been an explosion in the popularity of restaurant takeout delivery apps like UberEats and GrubHub.com, and these companies are all hiring drivers.

Obviously you need your own form of transportation, but it doesn't have to be as nice as if you were shuttling people around for Uber's taxi service.

### **16. Become A Substitute Teacher**

This won't be for everyone, but if you enjoy teaching, it could be the perfect side hustle for you. Substitute teachers are required in many schools across the country to carry out a class for teachers who are absent for a day or extended periods of time.

Depending on the school district, you may be required to obtain a certification or complete training courses in order to become a substitute teacher. However sometimes all you need is a high school diploma.

To apply for a sub position, you can call on the phone or visit your local school district's website and look for specific instructions.

### **17. Pick Up Parking Lot Trash**

Sounds crazy, right? Meet Brian Winch, who turned \$200 into a \$650,000 a year business picking up other people's trash in business parking lots. The great thing about this small business idea is that you don't have to quit your day job to get started.

Basically, you offer to clean up litter around commercial properties. You don't need expensive equipment, just a broom and a litter collection tool. You don't need a college degree. You'd work with property management companies, retail stores, offices, and warehouses.

### **18. Donate Blood Plasma**

Blood plasma is a yellowish liquid that holds your blood cells in suspension. It's the key ingredient for medical products that treat many life-threatening conditions. Unlike donating blood, you are actually paid for plasma donations, because it's used by big pharmaceutical companies.

You can donate plasma up to twice per week, earning up to \$400 a month. The process takes about 90 minutes. There are a couple of risks though. If the large needle used bursts your vein,

it can turn your whole arm black & blue for a while. And if you donate a lot, it can leave a small permanent scar.

Popular plasma donation centers:

Nu Plasma

BioLife

CSL Plasma

### **19. Sell Your Hair (If You Have Some!)**

If you are lucky enough to have a thick head of hair, I really don't want to know about it, because I'll get jealous. Haha just kidding! Kinda... :-)

Selling your hair can be a creative solution to earn more money! How much? It depends on the length, thickness and color of your locks, but nonetheless, it's certainly an easy way to make a buck.

You're not a hair-factory, so it's not a consistent flow of income, but it could give your bank balance a nice boost once in a while, with most people earning a couple of hundred dollars each time. You can get a rough estimate of how much your hair is worth here.

### **20. Grocery Shopping For Others**

For those of you that get excited when you see an empty fridge and know that it's time to do the food shopping all over again, this one's for you. You could be earning extra income by simply doing other peoples food shopping with InstaCart.

Choose between their Full-time Shopper or In-store Shopper positions, giving you complete flexibility, you don't even need a car to sign up. You can work during the hours that are best for you, but if you are available during peak times, you can really maximize your earnings.

### **21. "Wrap" Your Car With Advertisements**

It doesn't get much easier than this. No skills or brain power needed, as long as you have four wheels that get you from A to B, you could be making money while you drive.

Companies such as Wrapify are always on the hunt for drivers who will wrap their cars in certain locations for brand campaigns. According to Carvertise, you could be earning between \$300 – \$1200 per campaign, simply by doing what you already do every day. Drive!

### **22. Become an Election Officer**

You can cash in on our right to vote on Election Day. Many localities need election officers, especially those who are bilingual. And while the hours may be long, the pay isn't bad for a day's – in some cases 5 a.m. until 9 p.m. -- work.

For example, in Fairfax County, Va., which needs thousands of poll workers, election officers are paid \$175 for a full day (step up your game and get paid \$225 as an assistant chief election officer and \$250 as a chief election officer). In Monterey County, Calif., election officers are paid \$135 (for clerks) and \$185 (for inspectors).

Generally, to qualify, you must be at least 18 years of age and a registered voter in the state, be a U.S. citizen, read and write English, and have transportation to the polling place. You'll likely also have to devote time to attend a training class. Here's a video about becoming an election officer.

Pro tip: Bring plenty of snacks. It's a very long day, and you cannot leave the polling place to grab some chow.

### **23. Sell Gold and Silver for Scrap**

If you have gold jewelry that isn't valuable as an antique or a designer piece, consider selling it for scrap. Keep in mind that most gold jewelry isn't pure, say 14-karat or 18-karat, so you'll need to calculate the melt value to get a better sense of its worth as scrap. The melt value reflects the actual amount of gold in the jewelry; a dealer will offer you a percentage of that value. Quotes will vary widely, so get several. See *Smart Ways to Sell Your Gold* to learn more.

The same goes for silver. Maybe you inherited a few sterling trays you never use. Assuming the trays hold no particular value to collectors, sell them for scrap rather than trying to sell them at a consignment store or online. Check with several metals dealers, both online and at storefront locations, to get quotes. Expect to receive about 85% to 90% of your silver's melt value.

### **24. Participate in Clinical Trials**

If you're willing to be a human guinea pig, you can pad your pockets by participating in clinical research trials. Compensation depends on the nature of the trial and the amount of time involved, but payment can range from a few hundred dollars to \$4,000 per study.

Legitimate studies are sponsored by medical institutions and pharmaceutical companies. You'll be required to undergo a health screening to determine if you're eligible to participate. Come-ons for clinical trials litter the Internet. Many are scams. The safe play is to peruse studies that are actively recruiting participants at [ClinicalTrials.gov](http://ClinicalTrials.gov), a database run by the National Institutes of Health. Search by location to identify local trials.

### **25. Join a Street Team**

No, not this kind. Street teams are guerilla marketers -- energetic, outgoing helpers who promote products, summer blockbusters, albums, events and more by handing out samples, interacting with people on the street, or dressing as mascots, representing products and companies as a "Brand Ambassador," working trade shows, plugging upcoming movies by handing out hats or T-shirts at events, and more. To get a job earning \$20 to \$25 an hour, sign up with a company such as Street Team Promotion, which handles promotions in big cities nationwide. Make sure you get a contract that specifies when you'll get paid.

## **26. Rent Out Your Driveway**

What a home is to Airbnb a home's driveway is to Pavemint, an online and app resource to make money off your driveway. How? Rent it out.

Pavemint is a peer-to-peer app that connects parking-space owners with parking-space seekers. Granted, this is probably more for big-city dwellers than small-town America, but many of us who have driven in or live in D.C., San Francisco or New York City may find Pavemint a blessing.

Pricing and profit aren't standard; Pavemint's Smart Pricing Algorithm, which measures meter and lot rates, parking supply and walkability of the slot you're attempting to rent out, helps the homeowner (or business owner) set the rates.

As an example, during the L.A. Rams' season opener in 2016, when parking was going for as much as \$200 near Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, Pavemint listed 92 nearby parking spaces ranging from \$30 to \$100, according to KPCC radio. By late 2017, Pavemint had more than 4,000 parking spots across the country, with parking-spot owners getting anywhere from \$200 to \$900 per month.

If you have hoity-toity amenities such as electrical vehicle chargers or security cameras (or both), so much the better for your Pavemint income, the company says.

## **27. Sponsor a Spot for Pet Relief**

Sniffspot, "the Airbnb for dog off-leash areas," gives pet owners a place to let their charges run free. Essentially, you're creating a dog park on your property -- and earning yourself some walking-around money in the process.

Sniffspot's stringent procedures and safeguards include verification of pet vaccinations and flea prevention, screenings for aggressive dogs (they'll be banned) and insurance against damage to your property (Sniffspot says it's never had a claim filed).

All types of properties are welcome to be listed. The starting price is \$4 an hour per dog, but property owners can set their own rates. Sniffspot collects the funds and keeps 12%, plus a 10% marketing surcharge for hosts who joined the site after July 26, 2018.



Oh, and in case you're wondering, pet owners are responsible for cleaning up dog waste.

## **28. Drive a School Bus**

If you're retired, have some early morning and late afternoon time on your hands, you could make some cash driving a school bus.

You may even have the opportunity to make a little more money at it if you sign on to drive school sports teams to and from events in the evening or weekends.

For most school districts, you must have a commercial driver's license, a clean driving record and a clean criminal record. Bonus: You like to drive and you're friendly.

It's not big money. Most drivers are paid between \$11 and \$16 per hour, according to Jobmonkey.com. Plan on working 20 hours or so a week, often starting in the early morning before getting back behind the wheel in mid-afternoon for a couple hours. You'll have an established route. And depending on where you live, you could be working for the school district or a private bus company hired by the school district.

## **29. Launch Your Investing Portfolio with \$5**

Yeah right, you're probably thinking. What's \$5 going to get me?

And we get it. Investing feels like something you need hundreds — maybe thousands of dollars for. But with an app called Stash, you can get started with just \$5.

Stash lets you choose from hundreds of stocks and funds to build your own investment portfolio, but they make it simple by breaking them down into categories based on your personal goals.

Plus, you're investing in fractions of shares, which means you can invest in funds you wouldn't normally be able to afford.

It takes just two minutes to sign up. Subscription options start at \$1.00<sup>1</sup> a month.

And if you sign up now, you'll get a \$5 sign-up bonus. Like any investing, the earlier you get started, the more you can earn.

## **30. Copy This Strategy to Get Checks in the Mail Totaling \$526**

Remember when getting the mail was fun? Now it's just bills. And Valpak envelopes.

But for Colleen Rice, checking the mail meant finding checks. For doing nothing. Seriously. Since she started using a free website called Rakuten, she's received \$526.44.

Rakuten has the hookup with just about every online store you shop, which means it can give you a kickback every time you buy toilet paper on Amazon — even book that flight home for Thanksgiving.

Rice says she uses Rakuten for things she already has to buy, like rental cars and flights. She even used the money she earned to help her pay for her recent cross-country move.

It takes less than 60 seconds to create a Rakuten account and start shopping. All you need is an email address, then you can immediately start shopping your go-to stores through the site.

Plus, if you use Rakuten to earn money back within the first 90 days of signing up, it'll give you an extra \$10 on the first check it sends you.

Talk about money for nothing.

### **31. Become a Professional Line Sitter**

People will pay you to do anything these days, including wait in line for them. We're talking about the folks who'll wait in line for a new iPhone, Taylor Swift tickets or Black Friday deal.

You can offer your services through a marketplace like Craigslist or find a company like Same Old Line Dudes in New York City. The founder, Robert Samuel, realized what a lucrative business this could be when he got paid \$325 to wait in line for a new iPhone.

He now has about 30 "dudes" working for him.

### **32. Make Your Own Schedule as a Data-Entry Clerk**

Data entry isn't the best-paying online job, but it is one you can do with few skills or previous experience — all you need is a solid internet connection and a computer, and you must be at least 18 years old.

Pay ranges on a per-hour or per-project basis. Typically, you can pick up jobs as frequently as you'd like through freelance broker sites like Smart Crowd and Clickworker.

### **33. Clean up Search Engine Mistakes**

Search engines use complicated algorithms to determine the results you see — and they don't always get it right.

They're vulnerable to errors, so they need real humans to look at the results and judge them for quality, relevance and usefulness. And those humans can get paid around \$12 an hour for the work.

If you want to get paid to clean up Google's mess (or Bing's or Yahoo!'s), look for a job as a search engine evaluator.

Tech company Lionbridge is typically hiring for these jobs, and it pays \$12 to \$15 an hour.

### **34. Sell Your Friendship**

Get paid to be someone's buddy! We're not kidding.

You can register to become a friend at RentAFriend.com, where paying users can contact you to attend concerts, sporting events, family functions, VIP events and more.

You can charge up to \$50 an hour and set your own schedule.

Friends working full time (five days a week) earn up to \$2,000 a week, plus free dinners and access to those events I mentioned.

What could you do as a friend for 40 hours a week?

First of all, the site clarifies that it is "solely a platonic friendship website" -- beyond that, options are endless.

If you have a special skill, like cooking or speaking a foreign language, you could teach them. Some people traveling or new to an area hire a friend to show them the town.

Some people just want someone to talk to.

### **35. Answer the Phone**

Have you ever considered doing customer service from the comfort of your home? An increasing number of companies are hiring work-from-home customer service reps, instead of running call centers.

These jobs can be full- or part-time and offer a variety of schedules, including daytime, evening and weekend shifts with a range of pay depending on the position and location.

Your job is usually to answer customer questions over the phone or via online chat. You may find sales positions that include higher pay and performance incentives; or technical support positions, which are best if you're tech-savvy and have an interest in helping people understand technology.

You should enjoy helping people, though! You know how a bad customer service call can totally ruin your day? You don't want to be the bad rep on the other end of that call.

### **36. Pretend to Be a Patient**

Fake patients, more formally known as “standardized patients,” are used to train new doctors. It’s essentially an acting job, as explained in NPR’s profile of Gabrielle Nuki. The 16-year-old is paid \$15 to \$20 per hour to play different roles while medical students examine her.

If you can act and don’t mind being poked and prodded by aspiring doctors, you can look for this work at a number of medical schools.

### **37. Earn up to \$30/Day Watching Movie**

Theaters and movie studios want to collect data about the audience that attends their movie premieres. They want to know how many people buy tickets on opening day, which screening time is most popular and which previews are being shown. And they want independent data from third party evaluators — that’s where you come in.

These are known as “in-theater checks” and to apply, you’ll need to fill out an application with one of the largest mystery shopping companies, Certified Field Associates. The application is just a few questions long and nearly everyone in the United States and Canada is eligible to be hired.

In-theater checks don’t have huge paydays attached to them, but you can usually expect to make between \$10 to \$20 per hour.