

5 Ways to Jog Your Mind For Money-Making Ideas

By Leisa Bain Good

For years, I've been using these five (5) techniques to help me generate ideas for my business as well as help clients generate ideas for their businesses. They are all very low cost and simple to do. If it was too complicated, I probably wouldn't even do it myself, let alone recommend it to someone.

The main thing to remember is to put away all of your mobile devices or at least not be *on* them as you are preparing your mind to receive greater creativity. "Be still and know," as the Good Book says.

The other thing to remember is just to have fun, relax, and enjoy. Use this as an opportunity to also de-stress.

Well, without further ado, here are my five:

1) **Go to flea markets and yard sales** – Yes, flea markets and yard sales. You don't have to buy anything. Just look around and see some of the unique and unusual things there. While, you *can* browse Facebook yard sales, I recommend you get out of the house and be among people. Walk around and get some exercise. Give your iPad or laptop a rest. Sometimes, just a change of environment can breed ideas.

Did you know that the reigning "Catalog Queen" Lillian Vernon (author of *An Eye For Winners*) began her catalog/mail order business in 1951 with just \$2,000 by going to flea markets, yard sales, and then trade shows? Now, her company sells more than \$200 million worth of goods to a lifetime customer base of 18.6 million people. So, if the "Catalog Queen" can find an idea or two at flea markets and yard sales (hint, hint), don't you think you can?

I bump into eBay sellers there all the time. They are there looking for inventory (books, CDs, collectibles, etc.) for their eBay businesses. (Another great idea! An eBay business! I'm on a roll, but we won't count that idea.)

2) **Go to craft shows** – Notice, I did not put this in the same category as flea markets and yard sales. As a former, crafter myself who did many, many shows over the years, craft shows are a higher creative level. Especially, if you go to some of the "high-end" ones. You will definitely see and hopefully appreciate seeing a skilled level of fine arts as well as be able to engage in conversations with the artists. See what artists are creating and charging as well as notice any trends.

Don't know where all the craft shows are? You can start by browsing your local newspaper or get on the mailing list at schools in your area or even the local volunteer fire department. They are only too happy to send you with the information.

3) **Buy a copy of *Woman's World*** – *Woman's World* is a wonderful magazine for women with ideas for businesses, inspiring stories of courage, crafts to make, recipes, things for kids, and beauty tips.

As for men? Well, there are enough romantic getaways mentioned to give them ideas too. Enough said. While *Woman's World* is online as well, I like the offline copy.

Most grocery stores sell it at the checkout stand. So, the next time you are standing behind someone with 900 items, just pick up a copy. Look at the titles of the articles. Then toss the copy in with your own 900 items.

4) **Browse Fiverr.com for ideas** – By now, you are probably itching to go back online for some ideas. At this point, I will let you. Its name says it all. Fiverr.com is one of a kind. Just type it in your browser and see what people are willing to do for \$5. Freelancers, cartoonists, voice over artists—you name it.

I am amazed at some of the ideas, even a bit shocked and blushing. Okay. On that note, I will move on to our last tip.

5) **Go for a walk** – Back outside again for exercise! Clear your head and get your heart and circulation going. Not to mention you'll be raising those endorphins, which will also help your moods by promoting a feeling of happiness.

It was the writer, Henry David Thoreau, who said that, "An early-morning walk is a blessing for the whole day." So, the next time you can't figure something out, try walking and see if the answer doesn't appear somewhere in the sunrise or the gentle breeze.

Well, there you have it! Five ways to jog your mind for money-making ideas. See? Didn't I tell you these ideas were simple and easy to do?

Actually, just writing this report gave me a few more ideas for generating money, which I plan on using in the very near future. What are they? Well, sign up for my free newsletter or blog feeds and you'll find out soon enough.

So, get out there and get those creative juices not just flowing, but *overflowing*.

