

WHAT REALLY MAKES MONEY

An Independent Review of Business Opportunities & Money-Making Enterprises

OPERATION HOME ATM

Proven Ways to Make Extra Cash Fast During the Lockdown... ...and Beyond!

Dear Friend,

We certainly live in interesting times!

The days, weeks, months and years ahead promise to be the most disruptive AND challenging in living memory.

Don't worry, I'm not going to ramble on about how bad things are out there right now.

Instead I want to focus on the practical things you can do right now to start making extra cash quickly.

In this Special Report, I've collected together the best emergency cash sources you can start today.

Apology! – this is a raw draft and may contain a few typos, but rather than delay, I wanted to rush it to you ASAP so you can start earning money fast.

These are in addition to the more long-term income generators we will be working on together as part of your *What Really Makes Money* membership.

I will be adding to these over the coming days and weeks and will make sure you are updated.

And do let me know how you get on...

Enjoy



Nick Laight

Get Paid to Browse the Web

Qmee.com is a service that helps marketers and businesses target their online advertising more accurately. If you download their app or browser add-on, you can earn 7p-15p each time you go shopping or browsing online – a tiny amount that could add up, for no real work or sacrifice.

With the Qmee mobile app, you can get also paid to take surveys.

Take Photos of Job Adverts and Receipts

With the JobSpotter.Indeed.com website, you can get paid to take photos of 'help wanted signs', which you then send into the website.

For every one they approve, they add more points to your balance, which you can then redeem with a gift card. You can make up to 150 points per advert, the equivalent of 1.50 in cash.

Also, sign up to the website ReceiptHog.com who offer Amazon vouchers or cash in return for photos of receipts. Once you earn 1,000 points you make £3. It also offers surveys that can earn you a bit of extra money.

Earn With Online Surveys

Online surveys are a way that businesses can improve their marketing and target their products to the right people.

A survey allows them to understand who they are advertising to, what their audience really wants, and what their experiences have been.

This may become even more important during,

please turn over...

and after, the pandemic, as businesses fight to stay profitable and find new avenues to make money online. So, online surveys will continue to be big business – and you could get paid up to £10 just for completing a single survey, although some will pay around £2 or less.

All you do is wait for them to send you the survey electronically, then go through the questions. These could be about anything from your daily diet, to how you get fit, to your sex life or washing habits.

You don't need any qualifications or skills – simply be yourself, which means absolutely anybody can do this.

It's not going to replace your income, but you could easily make £500-£1,500 in the next year for barely any time or effort.

Here are some of the best and easiest to use:

- » **YouGov.co.uk** – Earn points for taking part in YouGov surveys, which you can turn into cash. Go to this page to join their community and start completing surveys Yougov.co.uk/join-community
- » **Prolific.ac** – You can earn cash for helping with research that improves human knowledge. Fill in the form here: App.prolific.co/register/participant
- » **PineconeResearch.co.uk** – This consumer research website uses surveys to develop new and improved products. You'll earn points that can be redeemed for cash or prizes. Occasionally, they will send you a product to test, too.
- » **PopulusLive.com** carries out business, culture and politics research and pays £1 for every five minutes you spend on their surveys.
- » **Crowdology.co.uk** promises to pay £10 for every survey you complete. They typically take between two and 15 minutes.
- » **Panelbase.net** have surveys on a range of topics and can help you cash over £100 within a month or two.

There are some companies who give you Amazon vouchers instead of cash.

However, with so much being available to buy on Amazon, delivered direct to your door, it's as good as earning an income.

- » **Swagbucks.com** will give you up to £5 per hour.
- » **OnePoll.com** is a USA/UK consumer and b2b research company that gives you £1 per survey.
- » **Another option is Social.I-Say.com** that allows

you to make £10 per month.

While some of these earnings may seem low, remember that a survey can take between two and 15 minutes to carry out.

The more survey schemes you join, and the more you carry out each day, the more that trickle of income will grow into a scheme.

If you did 10 per day that would be a maximum of two and a half hour's work, so easily something you can carry out in your spare time even if you are still working, home schooling kids or running some of the other fast cash online ideas in this report.

Sell Unwanted Gift Cards

If you have piles of old gift cards (for instance Amazon or Waterstones) from birthday and Christmas, then you can sell them on CardYard.co.uk you won't get the full value, but it could free up some cash to spend on necessities.

Couch Potato Profits!

Watch TV and Listen to Music

If you're going to be at home a lot, watching TV, there may be a way to get some cash for it!

TheViewers.co.uk is a research panel for TV that wants your feedback on programmes you've watched, or your views on previews and services in development.

This is so broadcasters and show makers get a better idea of how to position their programmes, or so they can make tweaks and amendments.

You can take their online surveys, which typically pay up to £10 for a programme review taking an hour of your time, or £1-£3 for 5-15 minute surveys.

It's free to register and you can decide if you wish to take a specific survey or not.

Or if music is more your thing, then try SliceThePie.com which gives you up to 10p for every song you listen to and rate.

Your feedback helps artists, bands, record labels and brands make better marketing decisions. They say, "The better your reviews, the more you will earn."

It is my intention to be as accurate in fact, detail and comment as possible. However, the publishers and their representatives cannot be held responsible for any error in detail, accuracy or judgement whatsoever. What Really Makes Money is sold on this understanding. ISSN: 1741 9018

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Enter and WIN Competitions!

Every day, across the UK, there are hundreds of competitions that you can enter for free to win cash, cars, home electronics and other prizes.

In fact, the annual amount given away each year is £2,500,000.

On ITV's competitions alone between December 2019 and January 2020 there were winners like these:

- » **£70,000** won by Chloe Makin from Isle of Man.
- » **£200,000** won by David Cunningham from Tyne and Wear.
- » **£55,000** won by Josh Morris from Swansea.
- » **£45,000** won by David Eversden from Worcestershire.
- » **£50,000** won by Chris Taylor from Hertfordshire
- » **£17,000** won by Michael Stanbury from Merseyside.
- » **£50,000** won by Alex Bodle from North Yorkshire.

The number of these competitions will be reduced in this time of crisis, with holidays being off limits as prizes for the time being.

However, they will still be out there, with chances to win £50, £500, £5,000 and even £50,000 for very little effort.

Facebook, Instagram and Twitter now also have a lot of competitions that are easy to enter and won't be affected.

To make comping work you need to be disciplined and make sure you enter at least 100 competitions a week in order to start winning. Rather than pinning your hopes on a particular prize, the key is to stay emotionally detached, almost to the point where you forget what you entered. This makes the surprise wins even more exciting.

It's time-consuming to find that many competitions manually, so I'd recommend that, for a small outlay, you join a high quality 'comping service' that scours the country for all the competitions, then sends you details via email and post.

It allows you to effortlessly enter 100s every week, including smaller, short-term competitions with fewer entries, meaning bigger chances to win.

For instance, check out:

- » **SimplyPrizes.com** This newsletter brings together competitions of all kinds, with 1,300 competitions on offer per month, including answers to quizzes and teasers.
- » **CoffeeBreakWinner.co.uk** with this service you get a private message after 11am. Then you can

choose from prizes worth £250-£100,000. Just copy 'n' paste, then hit SEND to enter.

Try to avoid 'free' sites that offer this kind of service. They rely on data collection companies for their income, which is why they mix 'real' competitions ones purely designed to harvest your details. Unless you with know what you are looking for you can get caught out.

Your details will be sold to hundreds of different companies and you will find yourself fighting off telesales people all day.

If you'd like some free guides on the basics of comping, go to this page: SimplyPrizes.com/guides.php

Share Deals for Amazon Vouchers

LatestDeals.co.uk is an online service aimed at bargain hunters seeking deals, vouchers, freebies and competitions. They will offer Amazon vouchers for people who are willing to share deals on their website, in other words, helping them to do their research.

Make £200 in 1 Month Signing up for Offers

20Cogs.co.uk help advertisers tailor their offers. They do this by sending you easy tasks for you to complete, along with some simple instructions. These include answering questionnaires, signing up to offers or giving feedback.

You then get a small part of the commission they get paid by their clients. Once you have successfully completed 20 offers you start to earn. On average a member will earn around £200 per month. You can get paid up to three times a week by BACS or PayPal.

Microtasking Money-makers

There are many platforms now where you can take on creative, tech and administrative tasks for money. These are small, one-off jobs, known as 'microtasks.'

Two of the best known are Upwork.com and Fiverr.com

The idea is that people who need help come to the site and search for workers willing to do that task at the right price. These are usually in areas like social media, website operation, online research and marketing, writing and design.

Specific jobs include article writing, birthday greetings, bookmarking and linking, data entry, accounting work, copywriting, astrology, graphic design, photography, transcription, animation, app creation, website building. You could get paid £3-£10 or more per job, with higher fees for the more skilled jobs.

Another good option is FiveSquids.com where jobs can

earn £5-£50, but you can earn as much as £20 or more for skilled jobs.

Earn £50 Per Week Renting Out Stuff You Don't Use

'Peer-to-peer lending' (P2P) is where people rent products off you via online platforms who deal with all the deposits and payments.

You can list items that you already own, for instance, a barbecue, mountain bike, kid's buggy, or a chainsaw you thought would come in handy but is sat in the garage. You can also rent out loft space, a garage, a garden, an outbuilding, or even your car.

FatLlama.com is one of the best marketplaces. They say that their users average around £50 a week from hiring things out, including cameras, audio and video equipment, DJ equipment, electronics, musical instruments, drones, bikes and scooters, DIY equipment and tools, heating and air conditioning units, and baby equipment.

Here's how renting out items works:

1. List your items for free. Upload photos and set your own description, pricing and location.
2. Receive and review hire requests from customers. You decide whether to accept them or not.
3. Arrange a convenient time and place to exchange your item with the borrower.
4. You get paid within three working days of the start of the rental. Fat Llama charge a 15% service fee. One feature that makes Fat Llama particularly useful (and makes the 15% fee good value) is that your items are covered by Fat Llama's guarantee while on hire. Damage or loss are covered up to £25,000 with this guarantee.

Other apps offering a similar service include My-Shed.co.uk, which specialises in tools and DIY. You can also hire out cars – try Hiyacar.co.uk.

For renting out space, like loft, garage or lockups, try StoreMates.co.uk which lets you list space for free and earn up to £40 a month.

As well as renting out your belongings, you can now even set up your P2P own platform without needing tech skills.

With your own platform you create a space for others to rent items without needing to list your own. There are now 'off the peg' eCommerce platforms where people can buy from you as they would any quality online shop.

The downside to P2P is that it's not all carried out

online. You'll need to meet up with your customer to hand over the items and take them at the end of the hire. That might cause you worries in case of safety issues, however it is possible to arrange for a collection where they leave the goods outside and you drive up to collect. Keep hand sanitiser in your vehicle and wash your hands when you get home.

Cash With Crafts

If you love crafting, then you can source your materials and tools online, while also selling your creations online. This allows you to make physical products without leaving your home.

It could be knitting, needlework, card-making, clay modelling, decoupage, cross-stitch, candle-making, origami, textile, sewing, weaving or woodwork.

You can sell your products through your own website, using Shopify.com or through marketplaces like Etsy and Folksy, eBay, Amazon, and Not on the High Street.

Sell Old Items

If you need to make emergency cash, then it could be worth looking around your home to find items to sell in the short term.

An obvious, but proven, option is eBay where you can buy and sell electronics, cars, fashion apparel, collectables, sporting goods, digital cameras, baby items, coupons, and almost anything else you can imagine. Think about items like old comics, records, antiques, vintage clothing and furniture.

You might be able to unlock a lot of cash in your home.

The one drawback that might spring to mind in a pandemic is the danger of needing to go to the post office.

However, it is now possible to get couriers to pick up items from your home. This extra cost will eat into your profits, so make sure you do your calculations beforehand.

Bear in mind that eBay will take a cut of whatever you make, so if you do have to pay for couriership too, then look at some other options, including Gumtree.com or Depop.com

You can also find specialist online outlets for certain kinds of items.

- » **MusicMagpie.co.uk** give you money for old CDs, DVDs and video games, or mobile phones, iPads, wearable tech.
- » **CashInYourGadgets.co.uk** is a good place to try and sell laptops, MacBooks and PCs. You get paid within two working days by Bank Transfer or PayPal and there's free postage. There's a courier

service too, so you don't even need to worry about getting a package to the post office.

- » **Paperclip.co** is a platform that allows you to sell unused items. Popular items that get good prices include digital cameras, old games consoles, Lego sets.
- » **Discogs.com** is a great place to sell CDs and vinyl records, particularly if you have a few rarities, which can fetch huge prices.
- » **PrinterCartridgeRecycling.co.uk** is a place where you can sell old printer cartridges for as much as £2 each. Tesco shoppers can also get Clubcard points in exchange for certain cartridges.
- » **Gold and silver prices tend to go up in times of crisis**, so you could sell gold and silver to a website like this, Gold-Traders.co.uk, or unwanted precious jewellery at HattonJewels.com
- » You can sell your old vintage fashion on Vinted.co.uk

Sell Your Photos

If you're an amateur photographer you might have a cash cow sitting on your hard drive.

You could sell those pictures to online photo libraries. These are essentially online brokers who source photos from photographers and then sell the use of them to publishers, designers, website owners and so on.

They will be used in things like articles, editorials, sales letters, brochures and websites.

The library will pay you a commission every time somebody downloads a photo.

Or if you're able to get out and about to the countryside while remaining socially distanced, then you could go and snap new photos especially tailored to those categories most popular in the libraries.

Two options are...

- » **Alamy.com**. You get 50% of each direct sale for images that are exclusive to Alamy, or 40% of each direct sale for images that are not exclusive to Alamy.
- » **Alternatively, try 123rf.com**. You will need uploaded ID documentation and submit 10 images in order to get approval.

Even better, you can use an app from **Foap.com/photographer**

The Foap app makes submitting photos easier than ever before because Foap accepts mobile phone photos. You can just take photos from your mobile phone and directly upload them. The app then showcases them for you and, if they sell, pays you a share of the fee.

Remember, most smartphones have pretty good cameras plus almost-foolproof photo-taking capability.

So, you don't need to be an expert photographer to produce decent photos. You can also sell videos this way too. There are two ways you can make money with Foap:

1. **Sell your existing photos**. These can be photos you already have on your phone, or anything you take. Full details of what you can sell are on Foap. When a brand, agency or anyone who wants to use your photo buys it, Foap share the profit with you 50/50. Foap sell photos this way for \$10, so each sale earns you \$5. Photos can be sold over and over again, not just once.
2. **Accept what are called 'creative video and photo missions' from buyers**. These are different in that the photo or video buyer states what kinds of photos they want in a brief and then you have to go out and take them. If your photos are bought, Foap say you can earn \$100-£500 and potentially more from them.

Spend some time taking and uploading a few hundred good mobile phone photos a month. Then, long term, it could bring in a few thousand pounds a year on a virtually automated basis.

Archive Other People's Photos

Today, pretty much everybody takes and keeps their photographs in digital format, either using a phone or digital camera.

But many people still have lots – thousands in some cases – of old paper photographs tucked away in boxes and drawers never to see the light of day again, which is a shame as these old photographs often have the best memories.

Other snags with paper photographs of course are that they can't easily be shared, especially not online, and not easily copied either.

They also tend to fade over time and can be lost that way.

It's also quite difficult and time-consuming to catalogue paper photos.

For a while now, it's been possible to scan paper photographs to digital format using a scanner. And, in fact, there are a number of services who do this successfully.

It's quite slow and cumbersome though. However, there are now apps that can make this process easier and more effective.

One of the most powerful is PhotoScan by Google Photos (Google.com/intl/en_uk/photos/scan)

With PhotoScan you just point your phone camera at paper photos, wait for it to scan and process them and, hey presto, the photo is digitised!

But this is the exciting thing: PhotoScan doesn't just take a photo of the photo. It is a smart photo scanning app.

It uses 'picture perfect' and auto editing technology to actually enhance the photo so that it looks better than the original.

PhotoScan will automatically crop photos based on edge detection, straighten scans, correct perspective, keep them correctly orientated and, above all, remove glare. (It achieves all this by taking several photographs, not just one, and blending them together.)

Using PhotoScan, photos can be digitised quickly and easily. They can then be stored as ordinary jpg files, on a flash drive or CD, or loaded up to Google Photos. They can be further edited if you wish and also catalogued and shared.

You can make money from PhotoScan by digitising photos for those who don't have the time or know-how to do it.

You can use Facebook and social media to find customers.

Start with your current Facebook friends, for instance.

You might find that during the pandemic people have time to go through old photos, and many might want to share those digitally with estranged friends and family.

Existing paper-to-digital photo services charge anything from 50p to 75p per photo. So, for example, digitising just one album of 100 photos would make you anything from £50 to £75, just for using your mobile phone.

Set Up an Instant Online Shop

There is great little app called Shpock.com that allows you to set up an online shop instantly.

While it is available as a phone app, it's one of the few that works much the same way on a PC.

To sell on it all, you need to do is take some pics of your item, write a short description, add a price and choose a category.

You can choose whether to sell your item at a fixed price or take offers. Buyers can ask questions about your item before they buy if they want to.

Although you can pretty much list anything on Shpock.com, the main categories are Fashion & Accessories, Home & Garden. Electronics. Movies. Books & Music. Baby & Child. Sport, Leisure & Games. Services. Cars & Motor and Other.

You can sell items you have in your home (see 'sell old

items') but you can also try an arbitrage strategy. This is where you look for undervalued items on Shpock.com, buy them and resell for more.

Get Paid to Teach English

With schools, colleges and adult night classes closing, there is an opportunity to help people learn online. Particularly in demand are TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) teachers.

You can do this from home using headphones, a webcam and a microphone, with payments coming internationally via PayPal.

You can take a crash course here: [TheTeflAcademy.com/online-tefl-course](https://www.teflacademy.com/online-tefl-course). This gives you a 168-hour 5 TEFL & Grammar Course, with free top-up courses, 198 hours of training. Six-months' access to an online campus, tutor support and a Level 5 Ofqual (UK government) regulated qualification.

Transcribing Audio: Type Your Own Pay Cheque

Transcription is where you listen to a piece of audio, and write down everything that is said, so that people can then read the text version. These could include conferences, videos, speeches, live debates, interviews and conversations.

Many businesses, publishers and marketers will pay for transcription services.

As long as you have good enough English to understand what is being said, then to repeat it in written words, with good grammar, this is something you can do. You'll only need a computer with audio plus a reliable Internet connection.

One option is [WayWithWords.com](https://www.waywithwords.com) who pay between \$0.45 and \$1.73 per audio minute base, which could earn up to £103 to transcribe an hour's worth of audio into text.

You could also try [Rev.com](https://www.rev.com) an online transcription and caption service. You can earn \$0.30-\$1.10 per audio/video minute. To make sure your English is good enough you'll get given a quiz and a chance to submit a transcription or caption sample when you join. If you're approved, you can start earning right away.

You can earn an average of \$400 (or £343) per month working around 15 hours a week.

Upcycling for Fun and Profit

From old earrings, to outdated telephones and broken chairs – what's junk to one person can be highly sought-after treasure to another.

What's more, by adding value to them, by fixing,

improving or repurposing them, you can make money from what is known as ‘upcycling’.

You can do this with old paper products, clothing, household furniture, garden furniture, ornaments, jewellery, old tech and gadgets, lighting, toys, baby goods, artworks, photos, stamps and coins.

An example is taking an old photograph and turning it into a framed artwork or turning an old vase into a table lamp.

The best way to do it during pandemic conditions is to source the materials on Gumtree.com and Freecycle.org where you can get old junk for free.

Arrange for them to leave it outside so you can pick it up without close contact.

Or use eBay to find cheap items to buy and have them delivered to the door.

To sell your items, use eBay.co.uk, Etsy.co.uk or create your own shop by using a platform like Shopify.com

Write for Money

If you’re a bit of a wordsmith, you could consider writing as a way to earn some money.

These could include online article writing, copywriting, blog posts, social media posts and general website content. There are businesses, sole traders and organisations that will happily pay.

You can seek out jobs on sites like Fiverr.com and Upwork.com but there are also specialist options.

For instance, Writers.Work have writing jobs available with training, tools, and support. You could earn anywhere from \$20-\$65 per hour depending on the skill level required.

Filler Writer

Get paid to submit jokes, tips, letters, and other short pieces to magazines, newspapers and websites.

These help to fill spaces, to add humour and entertainment to an otherwise staid publication, or to create a sense of loyalty by inviting readers to send in letters and for other readers to respond to their peers.

Today, most five-minute writers – so-called because that’s the longest some people spend researching, writing and submitting their work – operate entirely online, from home, frequently earning more than many people in mainstream employment, and sometimes creating several letters and short pieces, every hour, earning several hundred pounds each day.

Types of ‘filler’ include: letters to the editor, readers’ letters, jokes, ‘did you know?’ amazing facts, funny

anecdotes, silly sign posts and errors in publications, tips, recipes, brain teasers and other puzzles.

The market for short written pieces is huge. Clients could include *Take a Break*, *Reader’s Digest* and *Family Circle*.

- » **Bella** magazine pay £50 for their Star Letter – BellaMagazine.co.uk/letters
- » **Take A Break** pay £25-50 for Brainwaves – TakeABreak.co.uk/contact/send-us-your-brainwave
- » **Modern Classics** pay a £100 motor insurance voucher for their Star Letter – ModernClassicsMagazine.co.uk
- » **The Guardian** pays £25 for family-related letters – TheGuardian.com/lifeandstyle/series/aletterto

Read the publication to find out what kinds of letters/subjects the editor likes to pay for. Then write something along similar lines, with your own twist.

Many letters to the editor are intended to be humorous or include some useful tip for the reader, so try to offer something similar.

And, generally, avoid anything negative like rants or complaints – that’s not the sort of letter that editors like to pay for.

Most reader’s letters are short, e.g. between 150-300 words. Letters to the editor can normally be emailed – they don’t have to be paper letters as such.

This won’t be for everyone, but if you’re a budding writer, comedian or journalist, or you think you can do better than what you see in most magazines and newspapers, then give this a go.

Article writing

Start by writing articles on something you already know about and like. That way, you won’t even need to do any research, and you can even position yourself as a sought-after expert in your niche!

Finding markets: As ever, before you start writing, research your market carefully. Find all the magazines and newspapers that cover the subject you want to write about and read the articles they already publish.

Here’s a directory which lists all UK newspapers and magazines: Media.Info/uk

Popular subjects always have more demand for articles. So consider these ideas for your articles: Pets. Babies and children. Politics. History. Food and drink. Cookery. Local news. Current affairs. DIY. Environment. Crime. Cars and motoring. Gardening. Money and finance. Consumer issues. Book reviews. Hobbies. Health, fitness and beauty. Relationships. Travel and holidays.

You could write for the women’s pages (lots of

newspapers have separate supplements, as well as women's magazines) or even be an 'agony aunt'.

Writing techniques: When you find newspapers and magazines who might be interested in your articles, note the subjects, style, tone and length of the articles already published carefully. Keep yours within similar guidelines... don't try to be too different or controversial initially.

As a general guide articles are between 500-3,000 words in length, with an average of around 1,500. Many newspapers and magazines who buy articles have a 'contributor's guide' or similar, which will explain exactly what they are looking for.

Profit From Amazon Arbitrage

Chances are you probably buy, or have bought, things on Amazon. But did you know that Amazon offers an app ([Amazon.co.uk/app](https://www.amazon.co.uk/app)) which allows you to make money from Amazon without spending it there?

To understand why, let me give you a bit of background...

Retailing is very competitive online.

That means that not all products are sold at the same price by every retailer.

There can be pounds, tens and occasionally hundreds of pounds difference.

For example: A phone charger cable on sale at £2 from one retailer could be £7 at another. A designer fragrance for sale at £32 on one site could be £48 at another. A DSLR camera on sale for £299 at one retailer could be £340 or more at another.

It isn't unusual to see glaring price differences between different retailers as well as the online marketplaces like Amazon and eBay.

This opens up an opportunity for smart entrepreneurs to make what's called an arbitrage or flipping profit. That is, by buying from one retailer or one online site and selling for more on another online site.

Now, while this has always been possible it has been hard to find where these arbitrage margins are.

But Amazon's own app makes it possible to find these margins quickly and easily.

Because while the main purpose of the Amazon app is, as you might expect, so that customers can order products from Amazon and then track their orders, it also has another very powerful use.

Using the Amazon app you can scan the barcode on any product (or even take a photo of it) in any retailer.

Then the app will tell you how much it's for sale on at Amazon.

So, in a matter of seconds you can check out any product, check to see if you can buy it locally for less than Amazon's price, and flip it for a profit.

Once you have found margins there are various ways you can turn a profit here.

For example: You can buy from a retailer's website and sell on Amazon.

You can buy from eBay and sell on Amazon, or vice versa.

You can buy from Amazon and sell on social media, or even from your own blog or website.

You can even arb between different countries.

The Amazon app isn't the only app that can be used for finding profit taking opportunities.

Also try [PriceRunner.com](https://www.pricerunner.com) and [Idealo.co.uk](https://www.ideal.co.uk).

How to Make Money Selling Online During Lockdown ...and Beyond!

The Covid-19 pandemic is a worrying and frustrating time. You may feel isolated and limited in the ways you can make money from home. But there is a means of earning money quickly and ethically, without breaking any quarantine rules.

As an eBay seller, I've seen a big upsurge in sales since the lockdown began. So why not make some money by having a big clear-out?

Selling items on eBay during lockdown is low risk,

with low start-up costs, and there's no need for special expertise. One drawback during a pandemic is that you might need to go to the Post Office. If you need to avoid that, use a budget courier like Hermes, CollectPlus, Parcel2Go or DPD. They will pick up items from your home for an extra 50p-£1 cost.

The potential income can range between anything from a fast-cash instant turnaround of £100-£3000 or more.

Once the lockdown ends, you can begin sourcing more

products, specialising in a niche, or selling items on behalf of other people as a trading assistant. It will allow you to hit the ground running after the crisis with a second income stream.

If you really take to it, then there's the potential to build up a six-figure-plus business. In January this year, the media reported on the story of 19 year old Ben Ewart, who sold parts for old computers and games consoles from his parents' garage on eBay. This has become a home business with a turnover of over £1.3m.

So where do you begin?

The first places you should look are those nooks and crannies in which you store your things. Cupboards, wardrobes, drawers, lofts, attics, cellars, garages, outhouses, jewellery boxes, old trunks, chests and suitcases. Look through your clothes rails and shoe racks. Hunt under the bed and under the stairs. Leave no stone unturned.

You're looking for anything you don't need. Anything that's not relevant to your life anymore. Items that have fallen out of fashion. Gifts you've not used. Artworks you don't like any more. Books that you will never read again, nor pass down to children or grandchildren.

It doesn't matter if you think the things you find are less than ideal.

They'll be enough to get you started. What you might consider as junk could be a highly sought-after treasure to someone else.

You might be able to add value where you can – by making an item more desirable and more saleable in some way, thus boosting the price.

Perhaps you may find something that you can repair, clean, or restore. Or it might involve uplascycling your item into a different item with a different use, such as turning an old whisky bottle into a lamp.

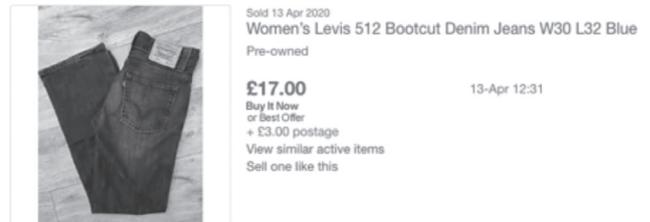
Here's a list – by no means exhaustive – of what you might find to sell...

Clothing and Shoes

The first thing I'd recommend is clearing out your wardrobe and drawers of clothing and footwear you no longer use. I have no doubt that you'll find some things to sell right away.

An example is that item you bought, then decided it wasn't quite right, so you never wore it but never took it back. Or that item you only wore a few times until someone said it didn't suit you. Or clothes you bought before you gained, or lose, weight, and now don't fit.

These all make excellent items to sell. Like this pair of jeans that you didn't like but which could make you £17.



You can sell any form of clothing: worn or hardly worn; vintage and modern. But recognised brands sell better, and designer names have more value, especially in their original packaging.

There's good demand for sports kits with insignias and designs associated with film and TV. You can even sell dirty, used trainers!



Old Tech

You might think that old tech is obsolete. Nobody wants to go back to the clunky old gizmos of yesteryear, do they?

Well, that's not true. There is a big trend for 'retrospective nostalgia' in which old technology is cherished – even fetishized. Their chunky, clunky, fuzzy qualities are all part of the charm.

Items include:

- » Old GPO telephones with their rotating dials
- » the earliest types of mobile phones (Nokia 3310s are considered very retro now)
- » manual typewriters with their ink ribbons
- » cool old household computers like Ataris, Amstrads, Commodore 64s and Spectrum ZXs
- » video game consoles such as Master Systems, SNESs, Mega Drives and Nintendo 64s
- » old film cameras, cine cameras, film projectors, CR televisions
- » and monitors and optical items like binoculars, telescopes and microscopes.

All these tech items are bought for their collectable value, so if they don't work or you don't want to guarantee that they work, you can still sell them with a 'spares or repairs' tag in the item description.

Any accessories, packaging or manuals that accompany the item will allow you to price them higher.

Old games for consoles and home computers are also highly collectable. Some first-releases are hailed as classics now, and rarer releases fetch hundreds of pounds for one item; or bundle a load of games together and command a premium...



Audio and Video

The dawning of digital audio and video made many physical formats obsolete. People cleared out video and music collections in one fell swoop, so much so that even charity shops stopped accepting VHS.

But there has been a resurgence of interest in analogue items. Look at the way vinyl has made such a big comeback that you can now buy records in Tesco. That would have been unthinkable ten years ago.

There is a large market of collectors who love owning something physical, and want to re-establish their music and film libraries.

I recommend you focus on radios and hi-fi systems, record players, LaserDisc players, and even VCRs and Betamax players; vinyl records, CDs, Blu-rays, DVDs and VHS tapes and LaserDiscs.

A love of old formats has been behind a revival in cassettes too, which are trendy among Generation Z and Millennials. People are buying up back-catalogues of tapes from the 80s and 90s.

Thanks to this, cassette players are also seeing a resurgence in popularity. For instance, Sony Walkmans sell well.



Bear in mind that most audio/video items are rarely worth big money. It's worth checking each title to see if you've uncovered a rarity (Eminem tapes sell well!) but my general advice would be to sell your items as a job lot.

Toys

Many toys have gained in value over the years, especially those from the 70s to the 90s. The reason is their nostalgic value. People who played with those toys are now in their 30s and 40s and wish to revisit their youth, or share those toys with their own children. These toys are worth more if they're in good condition

and complete with original packaging.

However, for the best prices, seek out toys from the 70s-90s connected to film and TV, many of which have cult status.

Vintage *Star Wars* figures (from 1977 to 1985 – they'll be marked with a date on the back of their legs) are massively in-demand. But even the newer *Star Wars* toy releases (from the late-90s to the present) are also collectable.

The final 17 vintage figures that were released in 1985 (the hallowed 'Last 17') always fetch hundreds of pounds.



Also seek out original toys related to Ghostbusters, Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles, Thundercats, GI Joe, Cabbage Patch Kids, Care Bears, My Little Pony, Masters of the Universe (He-Man), Rainbow Brite, Boglins, Micro Machines, Sindy, Barbie, Transformers, Action Man, Strawberry Shortcake, Sylvanian Families, Keepers, Teddy Ruxpin, and Manta Force focus on famous and well-known brands, which include Meccano, Dinky, Hornby, Matchbox, Corgi, Steiff and Pez.

Lego is particularly collectable, with even recently released sets (2004 to now) going for hundreds. Once a Lego set is 'retired' (which usually happens only after a couple of years or less of being available in the shops), its value increases rapidly.



Baby Goods

If you've had kids and kept some of the gear, this is a very profitable niche. There are always buyers looking for these hardly-used items.

Clothes, breast pumps, prams, pushchairs, buggies, transport systems, cots, cribs, beds, high chairs, nursery chairs, car seating, baby toys, playpens, bikes, scooters, trampolines, swings, paddling pools, sandpits, play gyms, rockers, baby baths, thermometers, night lights, mobiles – they all can be re-sold with ease. Branded items particularly sell well, like Mamas and Papas, Early Learning Centre, Tomy, Fisherprice, Mothercare,

Maxi-Cosi, Silver Cross, Chicco etc.

Newer brands that keep their value are Baby Bjorn, Ergobaby, Charlie Crane, CamCam Copenhagen, Snuz, Organic Zoo, Stokke, Dilling, Konges Sløjd and Mori.

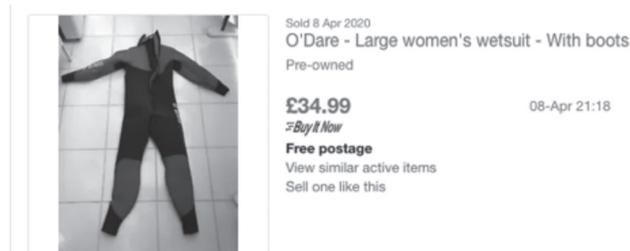
Here's an example:



Hobby Equipment

Hobbies with high-value equipment include horse riding, cycling, playing a musical instrument, golf, boating/yachting/canoeing, skiing, climbing, motorbiking, camping and caravanning, cricket, aviation, and diving.

It doesn't matter if the hobby items are vintage or new – there's a market for both.



Jewellery

The price of precious metals has gone up since the Covid-19 pandemic began, so now is a good time to sell any unwanted gold, silver and platinum you have.

Gold jewellery is always worth at least... its weight in gold! But you don't have to go looking for valuable jewellery – costume jewellery is easier to sell, especially without experience.

Watches of any age are desirable, and they don't need to have been super-valuable to begin with. For example, digital Casio watches are considered retro and are fully saleable.

Books

Books are a perennial seller: people buy second-hand books simply to read them; then some people buy books because of their interest as collectables. Non-fiction books on any subject usually command a higher price than fiction.

Subjects like history (every time/place; international and local history), art, academia and text books, travel and cookery always sell.

Hardbacks are more valuable/sought after than paperbacks.

I'd avoid modern reference books, dictionaries and encyclopaedias, but if they're older or antique, they

will have value, especially if illustrated. I'd also avoid modern fiction and Reader's Digest.

There is always a market for children's books. In the 90s I read and collected a series of popular choose-your-own-adventure books called Final Fantasy. I was delighted to find that they're now very collectable and sought-after, even if in a well-used condition.



Maps also have some second-hand value, mainly if published by Michelin, Ordnance Survey or Rand McNally. For instance, some people like to decorate their downstairs loos in maps instead of wallpaper.

Not that omics have a worldwide collecting fanbase – everything from *Marvel*, *DC* and *2000AD* to vintage *Beano* and *Dandy*. So these are great sellers.

Paper Ephemera

Paper ephemera describes printed items – everything from a newspaper or football programme to a ticket-stub or vintage letter. These things weren't really meant to last long, but for whatever reason, people have kept them. As time passes, they can become interesting, collectable and valuable.

During your clear-out, you're likely to find paper ephemera with value that you didn't know about. If it's made from printed paper or card and if it's 20 years or older (as a rough guide) then it could have some resale value.

Here are some of the kinds of ephemera that have a ready market:

- » bills/invoices/receipts; bookmarks;
- » greetings cards (especially anything pre-90s);
- » old knitting or dressmaking patterns;
- » phone cards and car tax discs (now collectable for their curiosity value);
- » playing cards (especially illustrated ones [cheeky nudes] and giveaway ones, such as those issued by the armed forces, airlines);
- » tarot cards and more modern collectable cards, such as Top Trumps and Pokémon;
- » posters (for anything);
- » tickets and timetables;
- » old film negatives, photographic slides and cine film too (not strictly ephemera but if they're in a good condition paper items can be printed from them).



There are myriad ways of reselling ephemera:

sell ‘as is’, singularly or as a job lot of items cut items up and sell them individually, for example, magazines and newspapers often have high quality illustrations or photographs that are worth more alone than as part of the publication.

Turn it into an artwork – for example an old reference periodical with good images of plants may be worth more by carefully removing the pictures and mounting them, and selling each individually, ready to be framed.

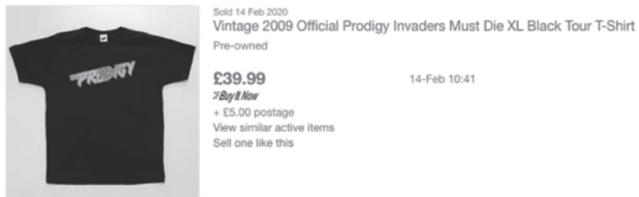
IMPORTANT! always check the value of a whole item before you dissect it!

Commemorative Items and Souvenirs

You might find commemorative items that were mass-produced for major events like royal weddings, sports tournaments or a major film release. These can be collectible!

Items include: magazines, programmes, posters, books, audio/video media, tickets, plates, mugs, glassware, clothing, pens, coins, stamps, toys, furnishings and tea towels.

You might also have a souvenir from visiting an attraction, city, exhibition, or musical event. Some of these might have value, like this souvenir T-shirt from that late-00s Prodigy tour.



Furniture

In the age of the flat-pack there’s a healthy interest in authentic, original furniture.... and even vintage IKEA flat-pack, like this ‘retired’ Ikea side table that recently sold on eBay...



Focus on small furniture. It’s easier to send and the market is much bigger too, because more people have room for it. Think side tables, occasional tables, card tables, night stands, chests of drawers, small cabinets, small bookcases and shelving, children’s room and nursery furniture, plant stands, pine chests, picture frames, bar/drinks trolleys, and bathroom cabinets.

Mirrors are particularly saleable right now as there’s a trend for decorating an entire wall-space with vintage mirrors.

If you have antique furniture there’s a buoyant trade in the UK right now, fuelled by the fact you can get hand-made items of antique furniture for less than the cost of mass-produced new items in a typical Oak Furniture Land.

Please don’t try to renovate your antique item, unless you’re an expert – you’ll probably only succeed in devaluing it. Remember that patina (the wear an item gets from decades of use) can add value.

But furniture doesn’t need to be antique to be desirable. Good-quality, well-made furniture of simple design, regardless of age, will sell. Even functional items can be as popular as antiques. For example. I recently sold a small, old metal filing cabinet from the 1960s that we inherited with the house.

Household Salvage

There’s a market for household salvage – the fixtures and fittings you’d find in a house, rather than movable items like furniture.

Focus on solid, well-designed, well-made items, of timber, wrought iron and glass. Antique and vintage obviously sell well, but so do modern items like tiles or textiles, kitchen units or chrome bathroom fittings.



Lighting

Interesting, unusual and good quality lighting is always in demand. Both free-standing occasional lighting and fitted lighting are as saleable as each other: table lamps; standard lamps; desk lamps; reading lamps; spot lights; faux crystal chandeliers; and outdoor lighting.

Vintage and period designs (opaline and holophane for example) are highly sought after, as are classic modern designs (again, think Ikea etc). Classic 20th Century brands such as Pifco, Revo Electric and British Electric have perpetual interest.