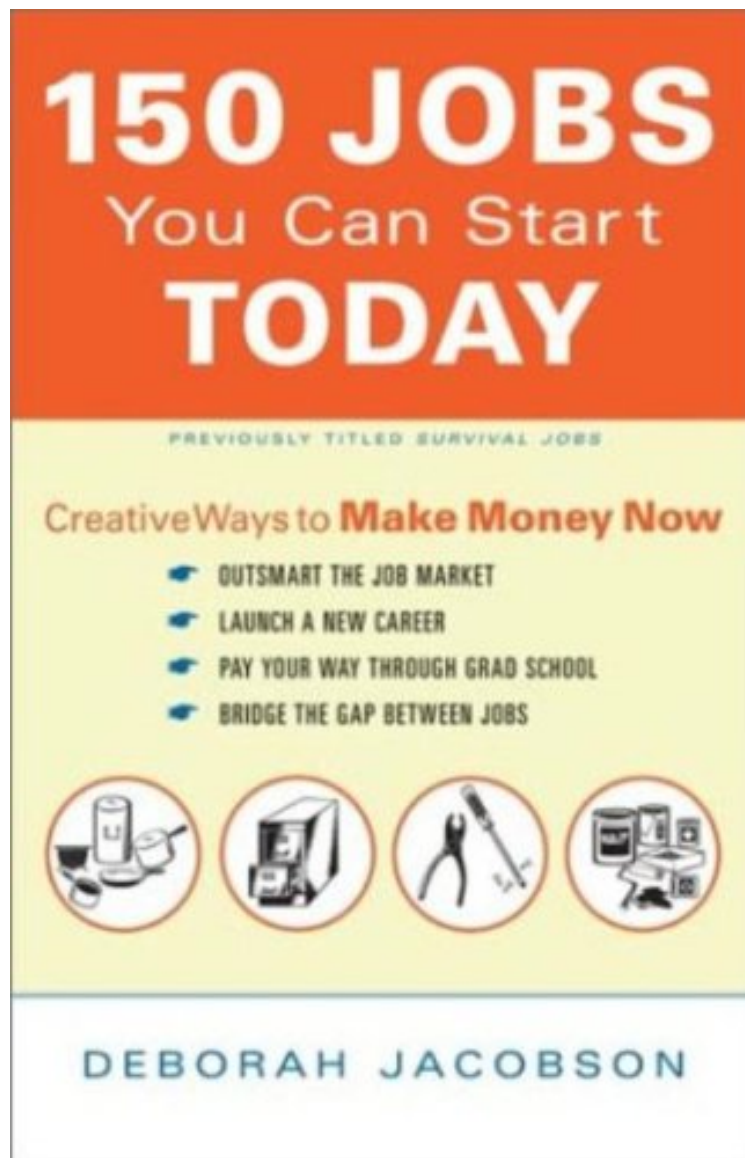


# 150 Jobs You Can Start Today: Creative Ways to Make Money Now

Deborah Jacobson

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**Deborah Jacobson : 150 Jobs You Can Start Today: Creative Ways to Make Money Now** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised 150 Jobs You Can Start Today: Creative Ways to Make Money Now:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Misleading titleBy C LeahyThe title is dead wrong. These are NOT jobs you can start today. In some cases, these aren't jobs that you can start this year, and even then not without a lot of money for training and classes. I was looking for something that would bridge the gap until I got gainfully employed

again, but most of these are career-changer jobs, not gap-filling jobs. I don't want to spend the time, money, and training getting into a new career. I like my career. I just wanted to figure out what I could do until the tide turned and I could get back to work. It's an interesting look at different types of jobs, but it's not what it says it is, and it's not much help. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This book was too old to be of much use. By TrbDid not care for this book, in it's time, it may have been a 5 star, but it is too old now. A lot of the jobs it lists are passe. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I love this book! By K. Starzyk This book has so many great ideas for anyone needing to make money right away. I felt stuck in my job, was very unhappy there but felt like I had no other options. Just KNOWING how many possibilities there are out there was so freeing! Also I've left that job and am now doing several other things... all right out of this book! Maybe they won't all work out, but now I know I don't have to ever stay where I am unhappy. I feel that this book could be helpful to so many people, especially right now in this economy!

Whether you're a seasoned professional or a recent graduate, a job search can take many months. Now, in *150 Jobs You Can Start Today*, Deborah Jacobson reveals 150 ways you can take charge of your career, start making money, and put your unique skills and talents to work—right now. From Real Estate Appraiser to Wedding Planner, these flexible, off-the-beaten-path professions can be tailored to suit your personality and schedule, whether you're looking to bridge the gap between jobs, launch a new career, pay your way through school, or simply make some extra cash. Each job profiled includes a detailed overview of the necessary skills, expected salary or income, real-world benefits and pitfalls, and easy-to-use resources for getting started. The ultimate handbook for today's economy, *150 Jobs You Can Start Today* gives you everything you need to beat the job market and fuel your own prosperity and success. **Message Therapist** **Wedding Planner** **Apartment Manager** **Real Estate Appraiser** **Private Tutor** **Web Designer** **Seasonal Tax Accountant** **Party Promoter** **Personal Shopper** **Focus Group Organizer** **Home Clothing Sales** **Music Teacher** **Start Your Own 900 Number** **Catering** **Artist's Model** **Telemarketing** **Cruise Ship Entertainer** **Personal Assistant** **Script Reader** **Web Page Designer** **Yoga Teacher** **House Painter** **Personal Trainer** **Home Remodeler** **Sports Referee** **City Tour Guide** **Traffic School Teacher** **Pet Care** **Professional Companion** **Proofreader**

From the Inside Flap Whether you're a seasoned professional or a recent graduate, a job search can take many months. Now, in *150 Jobs You Can Start Today*, Deborah Jacobson reveals 150 ways you can take charge of your career, start making money, and put your unique skills and talents to work—right now. From Real Estate Appraiser to Wedding Planner, these flexible, off-the-beaten-path professions can be tailored to suit your personality and schedule, whether you're looking to bridge the gap between jobs, launch a new career, pay your way through school, or simply make some extra cash. Each job profiled includes a detailed overview of the necessary skills, expected salary or income, real-world benefits and pitfalls, and easy-to-use resources for getting started. The ultimate handbook for today's economy, *150 Jobs You Can Start Today* gives you everything you need to beat the job market and fuel your own prosperity and success. **Message Therapist** **Wedding Planner** **Apartment Manager** **Real Estate Appraiser** **Private Tutor** **Web Designer** **Seasonal Tax Accountant** **Party Promoter** **Personal Shopper** **Focus Group Organizer** **Home Clothing Sales** **Music Teacher** **Start Your Own 900 Number** **Catering** **Artist's Model** **Telemarketing** **Cruise Ship Entertainer** **Personal Assistant** **Script Reader** **Web Page Designer** **Yoga Teacher** **House Painter** **Personal Trainer** **Home Remodeler** **Sports Referee** **City Tour Guide** **Traffic School Teacher** **Pet Care** **Professional Companion** **Proofreader**

About the Author DEBORAH JACOBSON, a cantor, singer, writer, wife, and mother, has owned and operated two successful part-time businesses. She lives in Stamford, CT. Excerpt. copy; Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. 1 You're the Top **JOBS FOR THE CEO IN YOU** **Apartment Manager** If you never thought it was possible to stay home, eat potato chips, watch TV, and get paid for it, guess again. Being an apartment manager is perfect for couch potatoes, writers, artists, moms, seniors, or anyone who stays home a lot. Some building owners will even hire people who already have nine-to-five jobs as long as they carry beepers. I know many couples who worked as apartment managers for a number of years to save for down payments on homes. What a great idea! Basically, an apartment manager is responsible for collecting rent, keeping the building and surrounding area clean, and knowing whom to call in an emergency. Some positions may even require light maintenance. The actual labor involved in this job will depend on your tenants and the size and quality of the complex. Most large complexes (over fifty to seventy-five units) have special maintenance crews. Typically a ten- to twenty-unit building is easiest to handle. Some building owners prefer couples, but this is not a requirement. The main attributes that apartment owners generally look for are honesty, common sense, good credit, stability, and an ability to fill vacancies. Most large cities have apartment associations that offer certified resident manager training courses. For example, the Apartment Association of Greater Los Angeles offers a training course approximately twelve times a year. It costs between \$450 and \$500, and the placement rate is around 80 percent. After completing the course, you can place an ad in the Apartment Association's employment bulletin, an excellent way to get a job. Most courses are extremely informative

and well respected among apartment building owners. Another option is to explore a course that is subsidized by the government in your city. Many community colleges will offer an apartment management course for a nominal fee. You can also try calling the local chamber of commerce regarding an apartment managing course. Whether you receive free rent and utilities plus salary will depend on the building you are managing. Smaller units often offer only a rent reduction or free rent, while larger buildings pay a weekly salary as well. This is often negotiable depending on your experience. Some management companies even offer health benefits and profit sharing. To find an apartment manager position, check the classified section of your newspaper, contact building owners and management firms directly, and network with other apartment managers. You will need to submit a current resume and a list of references. Also helpful is the Encyclopedia of Associations, which can be found at your local library: one for national associations and several volumes for different regions. The National Association of Residential Property Managers has local chapters in many states, and the National Apartment Association is in Washington, D.C. Good luck.

**\*BENEFITS:** Salary plus free rent and utilities or rent reduction; sometimes profit sharing and health benefits.

**\*PITFALLS:** Overbearing owners and tenants; calls at all hours.

**\*SOURCES:** Classified sections of newspapers. Apartment Association of Greater Los Angeles, 213-384-4131, [www.aagla.org](http://www.aagla.org). Los Angeles City College Community Services, 323-669-1031, [www.lacitycollege.edu/comsvcs](http://www.lacitycollege.edu/comsvcs). National Association of Residential Property Managers, 800-782-3452, [www.narpm.org](http://www.narpm.org). National Apartment Association, 703-518-6141, [www.naahq.org](http://www.naahq.org). Building owners and management firms.

**\*NEEDS:** Prior experience; good credit; some basic maintenance ability.

### Designing Greeting Cards and Postcards

The gift card industry is a thriving business. The average person receives about thirty cards a year. A neighborhood post office recently estimated that a third of all first-class mail consists of greeting cards. If you possess photographic, writing, or artistic abilities, you can become part of this booming industry. Designing cards allows you to be creative and work at home on your own time. It also provides the excitement of seeing your work displayed. To be successful, marketing abilities are a must. If marketing is not your forte, consider hiring someone to help out. You can turn anything into a postcard or gift card. I have seen beautiful cards with dried flower designs, twigs, and original artwork. Explore your designs, reproduce them, and test them out. To get started, go to an art store, library, or bookstore, and get a few books on card making; these can be found in the art technique section. The creative process comes next. If you are drawing or painting your cards, first draw a rough sketch, and then finish it in pen and ink. To save some money, go to a paper supply company that sells different kinds of paper wholesale. Such companies often can be found in industrial areas. Next, you can silk-screen your design or go to a copy center and laser print the sketches. You can then paint the prints with dry pigments, pastel sticks, or other media. After coloring your cards, spray them with an acrylic paint for protection. Marketing your prototypes is the next step, and there are many ways to go about doing this. Visit a variety of stores and gift shops with your portfolio, and meet with the card buyer. You may need to make an appointment, but oftentimes, if you have a professional and courteous manner, you can just walk in and be seen. Many small stores and specialty shops buy their cards from independent artists. If a store is interested, it will typically order a small amount first and pay you upon delivery. Another good way to sell your work is at craft bazaars and flea markets (see "Swap Meets and Flea Markets" in this chapter). You can find out about these through friends and newspapers and by networking with craftspeople. You can also sell your designs through card distributors. They will buy the rights and produce the cards. To locate a distributor that is right for you, go to a store and see which cards are similar to yours. Look at the back of the card to see what company produces it, and write directly to the distributor or manufacturer, requesting its market list, catalog, and submission guidelines. Remember to enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope, and be certain to copyright your material first. For more information on copyrighting your material, write to the Registrar of Copyrights, Library of Congress, Washington, DC, 202-707-3000, or go to its Web site at [www.loc.gov/copyright](http://www.loc.gov/copyright). Always put your name and phone number (preferably a service number) on your cards. You never know who will see your work and may want to contact you. Submission procedures vary among greeting card publishers. Some prefer individual card ideas on 3-by-5 cards; others prefer receiving a number of complete ideas on 8 1/2-by-11 bond paper. The typical submission includes five to fifteen card ideas with a cover letter. Income will vary, depending on how much of your work actually sells. Craft shows and flea markets usually charge a booth fee, and you keep all profits. Stores typically pay you half of what each card is sold for. If your work is put into the store on consignment, about 75 percent of the card price is a fair return for you. Greeting card companies and distributors offer individual payment plans, per card payments, and royalties. You can consult a number of sources for information on the greeting card industry. The book *Writer's Market 2003* contains a listing of greeting card companies and their requirements; the *Greeting Cards Industry Directory* lists names, addresses, and product lines of all exhibitors at the National Stationery Show. Try local bookstores or [www.greetingcard.com](http://www.greetingcard.com). Trade magazines, such as *Progressive Greetings* and *Party Paper Retailer*, may be helpful. Good luck.

**\*BENEFITS:** Working at home; creative outlet; excitement of seeing your work produced.

**\*PITFALLS:** Income varies.

**\*SOURCES:** Network with craftspeople. Go to card stores, specialty stores, and craft stores. Contact companies listed in *Writer's Market 2003*. Read trade magazines, such as *Progressive Greetings*, 309 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10016, [www.greetingmagazine.com](http://www.greetingmagazine.com); and *Party Paper Retailer*, [www.partypaper.com](http://www.partypaper.com). For more information, write to Greeting Card Creative Network at 1200 G Street NW, Suite 760, Washington, DC 20005, and the Greeting Card Association, 1350 New York Avenue

NW, Suite 615, Washington, DC 20005, 202-393-1778, [www.greetingcard.org](http://www.greetingcard.org). \*NEEDS: Artistic or photographic talent and vision; marketing ability. \*IDEAS: Writing prose for greeting cards is another possibility. If you have the talent, contact card companies with writing samples, using the information above. Check out the book *Sell the Fun Stuff: Writers' and Artists' Market Guidelines for Greeting Cards, Posters, Rubber Stamps, T-shirts, Aprons, Bumper Stickers, Doormats, and More!* by Jenna Glatzer. Try local bookstores or [www.com](http://www.com). Designing or Refinishing Furniture Last year I bought a beautiful, distressed wooden coffee table from a soap opera star who started to make and sell furniture after his character had been killed off on his show. What started as a hobby and a way to bring in some extra cash eventually became a lucrative side business. Distressed finishes and colorful, creatively painted furniture are extremely popular right now, and plenty of people and stores alike love to buy custom-made furniture at wholesale prices. Making or refinishing furniture is fun and creative and challenges your artistic abilities. As a self-employed artist you can create as many or as few pieces as you like or as many as needed to supplement your income. You can sell your own designs or take custom orders, and most important, your schedule is your own. You need two basic things: a place to work and furniture. The place could be your own backyard, a garage, or a studio. Pieces of furniture are easy to come by and can be gathered from garage sales, flea markets, thr...