

The Strangest Online Jobs

Warm Up

- What kind of career would you like to have? / Do you ever think about changing jobs?
- What do you think is a strange job?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of working from home?

Reading

Are you fed up of your job? Ever thought about working from home to supplement your income? Well more and more people are doing just that and some have found niches in the most bizarre places. Learn how other people make money doing the strangest online jobs.

Video Gamer – Joseph Garrett has made serious money playing a video game called Minecraft. He records the games with a running commentary throughout which he uploads to YouTube. He generates millions of dollars from ad revenue and had to quit his job because he was taking home so much with the videos.

Eating Online - A new trend has hit South Korea and it involves eating. People will pay money to watch you eat at home, sometimes even up to a few hundred dollars a meal. One eater, known as The Diva, pockets \$9000 a month eating food and recording it live.

Sell your hair - There are websites out there who will buy your hair or sell you some. One woman sold 31 inches of it to a website for \$4000. The hair is used for wigs, dolls, ornamental flowers and jewellery.

Ads on your Face – Two British men set up a website in order to pay off their university debts. Each day they face paint a company's logo and website on their faces while they do funny things or stunts. When they started they charged £1 for an ad campaign, but as their popularity rose, they began to charge £400 per day. They have managed to pay off their university debts of £50,000.

Wearing a T-shirt – Jason Sadler's idea involves wearing a different company's t-shirt every day for a year. January 1st costs \$1 and December 31st is auctioned for \$365. As part of the deal he makes an appearance Flickr, YouTube, Twitter and Ustream.tv wearing the company's logo. The first year alone he earned \$70,000 and now brings in \$500,000 per annum.

Let the Community Decide your Life – Mike Merrill had an idea about dividing his soul into 100,000 shares, each one costing \$1. Shareholders were given voting rights in the personal decisions about his life. He asked for permission for things like whether or not he should date, should he become a vegetarian, should he have children, how often he should sleep, what party he could vote for and whether shareholders should receive his life insurance in case of his death.

Discussion Questions

1. Which job would you consider doing?
2. Which job would you never do?
3. What are the pros and cons of playing video games for money?
4. How do you think you would feel having people watch you eat every evening?
5. Why do you think people want to watch somebody eating?
6. Would you sell your hair? If so, for how much?
7. If you were bald, would you buy human hair or synthetic hair?
8. The 2 British men auctioned their faces every day to make money - except Christmas Day. They reserved that one for charity. Which charity would you choose if you were in charge?
9. Would you buy something or visit a website if you saw it advertised on someone's body?
10. Can you think of any events/places where it might be embarrassing or inappropriate for Jason Sadler to wear a t-shirt?
11. Discuss some of the problems that Mike Merrill would experience not being allowed to choose his own destiny.
12. Do you think these people went too far trying to make money?