

Am I ready to freelance?

A quick quiz that'll give you the answer: ready to freelance, not quite set or do not go freelancing! Answer each section honestly and then score as directed. This is to pick your brain slightly, but also for fun so enjoy it.

SECTION 1: Material resources

	YES	MAYBE	NO
I have a dedicated work space			
I have access to the equipment and technology needed to work on my own (laptop/computer, internet connection, electricity, security)			
I am a registered tax payer and know about tax submissions			
I have an administrative system in place (rates, quotation and invoicing templates, contract/service level agreement, etc.)			
I have reserve cash flow, a second income or a partner with an income (to carry me until my earnings stabilise)			
I have an online presence (website, Facebook profile, LinkedIn profile, and/or PEG directory listing)			
I have access to editing resources to support my work (hard copy, online, colleagues)			

SECTION 2: Intellectual resources

	YES	MAYBE	NO
I have a formal qualification in copy-editing/proofreading			
I belong to a relevant professional membership organisation			
I keep abreast of changes and trends in my field			
In the last year, I have attended webinars/workshops/e-learning programmes to enhance my editing skills and knowledge and/or my understanding of freelancing			
I think of and run my work as a business with working hours, rates of service and restricted availability			
I separate what I do as a copy editor from who I am as a person (with other interests and duties)			

SECTION 3: Emotional resources

	YES	MAYBE	NO
I am a confident person and believe I am good at what I do			
I am disciplined and organised, I keep a fairly structured schedule of work activity and deliver work on time in expected form			
I am able to sit with some uncertainty and/or face the unknown			
I like to connect with other people in my field			
I ask for advice if I am unsure about something			
I believe I can still learn more about copy-editing			
I am self-motivated			

Calculate your score:

3 points for every YES

2 points for every MAYBE

1 point for every NO

Section 1	
Section 2	
Section 3	
TOTAL	

What does your score mean?

TOTAL SCORE:

< 30 Freelancing might not be for you

30 – 44 You need to develop more of your resources (see section/items with lowest scores)

45 and above You seem ready to freelance confidently

Use this simple quiz to evaluate where your strengths and weaknesses are. Freelancing is not static and one should be working on or assessing these areas regularly.

For each NO and MAYBE, identify what you need to put in place to raise your score. Find the resource, colleague, mentor, training course or skill development opportunities that will strengthen your resources to support ongoing development of your freelance capacity.

