

Dominic Bowkett - The Pros & Cons of Freelancing Online

I have been freelancing for over two decades now, and I continuously come across individuals who want to know the secret of being a successful freelancer. The answer is that there is no secret to it. You either commit to being a full-time freelancer or you do not. What [Dominic Bowkett](#) can offer is a bit of perspective as to what becoming a freelancer entails. It is my hope to debunk some of the myth and misconceptions about freelancing by presenting the pros and cons.



The Pros:

There are several pros in freelancing says [Dom Bowkett](#). The first and most obvious pro is that you will no longer have an official boss over you. Your hours will be picked according to your schedule and based upon the needs of your client. Apart from the freedom of choosing your own hours, some of the top pros include:

- Limited or no commute time, depending on whether you have a home office or an office away from home.
- You can diversify your contracts based upon the market. Should your primary skill set fall in demand you can use a supporting skill to offset the slack in the market.
- If you have a home office, you can dress how you wish, unless you have a Skype meeting or a face to face.
- No co-worker drama
- You are not penalized for sick days
- What you earn is what you get. Apart from the fees and the applicable taxes, you will get what you negotiate.
- Freelancing online means that if you have a network connection you can work from anywhere. The world is literally your office. Whether you wish to work from your home, a coffee shop, or at

a camp site is up to you.

Freelancing online pros are greatly swayed to the convenience of working from home or from small office as well as having the ability to pick and choose your clientele. This does not give you carte blanche on every aspect of your business. In fact, there are some very big cons to being a freelance artist.

The Cons:

Perhaps the biggest con to working as a freelancer online is getting your money. While you would assume that everyone is going to pay and that the freelance sites which you work for will pay you accordingly, this is not always the case. If you do not have the funds already in escrow (which every freelancer should do when establishing a contract), the client can refuse to pay and there is little which can be done about it. Think about it. Are you really going to hire a lawyer to go to China, Canada, Africa, etc. to get that \$200? Probably not. And while this is a huge con, here are a few other areas which should be considered:

- Your market is globally competitive not locally competitive.
- Taxes and withholdings are the sole responsibility of the freelancer, so you will need to have tight books.
- Monthly bills will still come in, if you have a slow month your belt may get rather tight
- If you work online you will have to work weird hours to meet the demands of the market (if you believe that you will only work from 9 to 5 M-F and make a living, you are mistaken).
- Getting established as a freelancer takes time. You will not get those high dollars freelancing jobs right out of the gate. Clients want to hire established freelancers. If you have no reviews, finding contracts may be difficult.
- One bad review can stop the flow of business. You will find that sometimes it is better to give the client the \$12 worth of work rather than take the one star rating. When freelancing online, your reputation is everything.

The Grey Zone

Freelancing is not just some black and white pros vs. cons career. There are many factors which [Dominic Bowkett Social Worker](#) explains will need to be considered to be successful. The first consideration is how much time you will allocate to freelancing. If you treat it as a hobby, you will make hobby money. If you treat freelancing as a full-time job, it will yield those funds.

Secondly, freelancing does not mean free from financial and legal responsibility. You must get a sole proprietary license to legally work. Some areas will stick you with a rather heavy fine if you do not. Additionally, in order to be recognized online, you must have online advertising, a website, and networking.

Legally, you are responsible for making all contracts, for upholding your client's privacy, and to no infringe upon any copyright or local laws.



Are you ready to freelance?

Hopefully, this has given you a clear picture about freelancing. While the benefits are great, so is the responsibility. If you think that you are ready to jump in and start, look at the market, plan, and transition slowly into it. Again, establishing yourself as a great freelancer takes time and dedication, but if you have what it takes the payoff is worth it. For more information contact [Dominic Bowkett](#).