



Blogging for Beginners: Quick-Start Checklist

So... you're thinking about starting a blog.

You've probably Googled "how to start a blog" and ended up drowning in jargon, plugins, and 38-step funnels.

- **Yeah... no thanks.**

Here's your honest, simple, practical checklist — the actual stuff that gets your blog off the ground in 2025 (and keeps your head from exploding in the process).

BY TJM | NO-FLUFF BIZ TIPS



■ **STEP 1. PICK A TOPIC YOU CARE ABOUT**

Checklist items:

- ☐ Choose a general topic you care about (don't overthink)
- ☐ Examples: Online business, Life after 50, Health, Hobbies
- ☐ Remember: You'll refine your niche as you go

PRO TIP: DON'T OVERTHINK THIS STEP. ACTION BEATS PERFECTION

■ **STEP 2. CHOOSE YOUR BLOG PLATFORM**

Checklist items:

- ☐ Decide which platform you'll use
- ☐ WordPress.org (self-hosted) — flexible, beginner-friendly, widely supported
- ☐ Wix or Squarespace — okay for beginners, but limited for long-term growth

PRO TIP: STICK WITH WORDPRESS.ORG IF YOU WANT FULL CONTROL AND THE ABILITY TO GROW. DON'T WASTE MONTHS SWITCHING LATER.

■ **STEP 3. GET YOUR DOMAIN & HOSTING**

Checklist items:

- ☐ Register a domain name (simple, memorable, ideally a .com)
- ☐ Sign up for reliable hosting The one I personally use: [D9 Hosting](#) (affordable, solid support). Other options: Namecheap, SiteGround,
- ☐ Connect domain + hosting (your host usually does this in minutes)

PRO TIP: CHOOSE HOSTING THAT INCLUDES FREE SSL (HTTPS://). IT KEEPS YOUR SITE SECURE AND BUILDS TRUST WITH READERS.



■ STEP 4. INSTALL WORDPRESS

Checklist items:

- ☐ Use your host's 1-click WordPress install
- ☐ Log into your dashboard → yourdomain.com/wp-admin
- ☐ Choose a simple, mobile-friendly theme to start

PRO TIP: WORDPRESS.ORG IS THE GOLD STANDARD FOR BLOGGERS — MORE CONTROL, BETTER FEATURES, AND ENDLESS RESOURCES.

■ STEP 5. SET UP YOUR KEY PAGES

Checklist items:

- ☐ Create a Home page
- ☐ Write an About page (be real, not corporate)
- ☐ Add a Blog page (where your posts live)
- ☐ Add a Contact page
- ☐ Add a Privacy Policy / Disclaimer (needed for email + affiliate links)

PRO TIP: KEEP IT SIMPLE. TEMPLATES ARE FINE AT THE START. YOU CAN POLISH LATER.

■ STEP 6. WRITE YOUR FIRST BLOG POSTS

Checklist items:

- ☐ Write your first post: “Why I’m Starting This Blog” OR “Things I Wish I’d Known About [topic]”
- ☐ Create 2–3 more posts so your blog doesn’t look empty when you launch - keep them in line with your main topic as much as possible.
- ☐ Add at least 1–2 images per post (use free sources like Pexels/Unsplash) Rename images before uploading (e.g., blogging-tips.jpg) for better SEO.

PRO TIP: CHOOSE HOSTING THAT INCLUDES FREE SSL (HTTPS://). IT KEEPS YOUR SITE SECURE AND BUILDS TRUST WITH READERS.



■ **STEP 7. ADD A SIMPLE NAVIGATION BAR**

Checklist items:

- ☐ Add a navigation menu to your site
- ☐ Make sure it links to your About page and Blog posts
- ☐ Keep it clean — don't overload with 10 menu items

PRO TIP: VISITORS WON'T DIG AROUND. IF THEY CAN'T FIND IT FAST, THEY'LL LEAVE

■ **STEP 8. START AN EMAIL LIST**

Checklist items:

- ☐ Create one simple opt-in form
- ☐ Offer one freebie (like this checklist!)
- ☐ Write one welcome email to send automatically
- ☐ Sign up with an email service (I use [AWeber](#) — simple and beginner-friendly)
- ☐ Create a thank-you page where people can download your freebie (like this checklist)

PRO TIP: EMAIL IS GOLD. START NOW — DON'T WAIT UNTIL YOU "HAVE TRAFFIC."

■ **STEP 9. SHARE YOUR BLOG POSTS**

Checklist items:

- ☐ Share your first post on [Facebook](#) or Pinterest
- ☐ Email it to a friend (yes, even just Karen counts!)
- ☐ Keep it simple — don't wait for a "big launch"

PRO TIP: DON'T POST AND GHOST. A BLOG NO ONE SEES IS JUST A DIARY.



■ STEP 10. KEEP GOING

Checklist items:

- Aim for 1 post a week (consistency matters more than perfection)
- Don't expect instant results — blogging is a long game
- Track your progress with Google Analytics or similar

PRO TIP: CONSISTENCY + PATIENCE = MOMENTUM. AND MOMENTUM LEADS TO INCOME.

■ NEXT STEPS

Want to avoid the rookie traps that kill your first sale?

👉 Grab my FREE Affiliate Marketing Mistakes Checklist → tracyjmann.com/go/mistakes-checklist

It's a quick-fix guide to dodge the beginner mistakes I wish someone had warned me about.

🚀 *Ready to finally make affiliate marketing click?*

👉 Check out Master Affiliate Profits (MAP) → tracyjmann.com/map

This FREE training helped me cut through the noise, build my email list, and actually start making progress.



■ **FINAL WORD**

Blogging isn't about being perfect. It's about publishing, learning, and helping your readers.

Use this checklist as your shortcut to avoid rabbit holes and finally build a blog you'll actually stick with.

This checklist isn't magic. It's **momentum**.

And momentum builds content, **confidence**, and eventually?
Income.

■ **Grab More Resources**

✨ Need help with tools, templates, and support?

👉 Check out the tools I use daily → [tracyjmann.com/resources](https://www.tracyjmann.com/resources)

These are the simple, no-fluff tools I rely on to keep my blog and business running without overwhelm.