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# Inspiring Stories From People Like You

...who've successfully made the shift

## Why did you change career?



"Money can't buy job satisfaction. I wanted to get out of bed on a Monday morning and really get stuck into the day."

~ **Chris Dolder**, *From Business Consultant to Polar Expedition Leader*



"I knew I couldn't face waking up every day for the rest of my life knowing I was giving such a huge part of life to something that I just didn't care about."

~ **Cristina Azorin**, *From Software Support to Founder of Lifestyle Coaching Organisation*



"As I got older, I was starting to try to imagine what my life would be like as a working mother or wife. I wanted to have the time and mental bandwidth to be really present in my life, and with my family."

~ **Jessica Deckinger**, *From Analyst to Senior Brand Manager*



"I caught the train to work one beautiful March morning. The sun came out, the breeze was a steady force 3-4, perfect for sailing, and I just thought 'what am I doing?'. I resigned that day."

~ Pete Firth, *From the City to the High Seas*



"I kept thinking that if I'd been run over by a bus and was standing at the pearly gates looking back on my life, I'd be hard pressed to say that I'd done anything of any real value. We spend so much of our lives at work that it's really important to find something you enjoy doing and that feels meaningful."

~ Kimberley Pledger, *From Commercial Manager to Massage Therapist*



"I woke up New Year's morning in Tonga, and thought: "I'm basically in paradise, getting paid well, in a prestigious position, but I'm not happy and I'm not fulfilled." And that was the point at which I decided: I'm going to take control of my life."

~ Leilani Tamu, *From Diplomacy to Poetry and Writing*

## How has your career change affected your life?



"Happy doesn't quite do it justice. I love the life I have. It's not always easy but I wouldn't change it for the world. It's full of adventure and I'm surrounded by people who inspire me; people who are doing work that they believe is meaningful. If you have a dream, go after it. And never give up."

~ Katherine Preston, *From Investment Writer to Public Speaker, Author, and Small Business Founder*



"Finding the right career has given me insane amounts of confidence and a lot of fulfillment!"

~ Linzi Wilson, *From Creating Events To Coaching Entrepreneurs*



"For the first time in my life I feel that, even if things aren't always easy and I don't always have all the answers, I am finally on the right path."

~ Sarah Cooper, *From Marketing manager to Career and Personal Coach*



"Career change has made such an impact on my life. "If you're not happy at work, then you're negative in your life. Once I made the change, I began to look at things completely differently. I have a more upbeat outlook, and am more fun to be around."

~ **Dee Ripoll**, *From the Law to the Waves and the Stage*



"I have never been happier... Just do it! Life is too short to be afraid of change. The world is out there, folks, and it's waiting for you!"

~ **Denise McLeary**, *From Health In The UK to TEFL in China*

## What challenges did you overcome?



"Once I left, people would say 'there's a job you should go for here' in a related work area. I had to be resolved that I wanted to take some time out to really know what I wanted to do next. After saying 'no' to lots of these offers, I actually did wonder if I would have no options. I suppose there was a fear of the unknown."

~ Mark Dunn, *From Music Marketing to Meditation*



"I spent years thinking there was something wrong with me — why couldn't I just be happy in this 'good job' and 'good career' and accept my lot like everyone else?"

~ Santhie Goundar, *From Corporate Tax Accountant to Freelance Journalist, Editor and Writer*



"The hardest part was moving into an industry that was completely different from what I was used to. Starting from scratch is hard, but it was also liberating and did wonders for my confidence!"

~ Denise Collman, *From the Desk to the Gym*



"It was a long journey and I did have to take a cut in income for a few years. However, even though I was making less, I was happier than I had ever been because I completely loved what I was doing."

~ Sarah Dawrant, *From PR to Coach and Business Communication Skills Trainer*



"One difficult thing about changing career was the sinking feeling that what you've done already is a complete waste of time. In retrospect, I now know that this isn't correct. You just have to put this feeling to the back of your mind and get on with it!"

~ Mark, *From City Law to Politics*



"There have been many low points when my imagination runs away with itself, conjuring all sorts of terrible future scenarios... It's only natural to worry, yet when I examined these fears in detail I could see that they were fundamentally irrational. No-one can predict what will happen in the future."

~ James Miller, *From the Corporate World to the Natural World*

## What advice would you give to new career changers?



"Sure, it's easier said than done, and it's disappointing when an important chapter of your life comes to an end. But instead of dwelling on what you miss, focus on the possibilities that lie ahead and seize them with not only a renewed energy, but far more life experience that when you started your first career."

~ Philip Donlay, *From Pilot to Writer*



"Remember you don't have to do it on your own. People are so petrified that they will be alone or an outcast amongst their peers or current colleagues, and don't know who to speak to. But there are so many people out there to speak with... You're not trapped. There are options."

~ Anna Margolis, *From International Labour Attorney to Programme Director and Coach*



"Follow your heart; it's wiser than you think. And for God's sake, don't be scared... now I can't think of anything scarier than having to do a 9-7 in a bank, law firm or somewhere I was unhappy."

~ Tom Savage, *From Research Analyst to Social Entrepreneur*