



Presents:

## Podcast Episode 112: Ten Things to Do Outside Of Blogging to Help Grow Your Blog



By: Leslie Samuel



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## Introductions

*[Intro by Guy Kawasaki, Gideon Shalwick, and Farnoosh Brock]*

Hello, hello, hello and welcome to another episode of Learning with Leslie, the podcast where you learn, I learn, we all learn about how to build an online business with a blog. No, I'm not talking about one of those blogs that will fall by the wayside when Google has a mood swing. I'm talking about one that will thrive no matter what gets thrown at it.

I'm your host, Leslie Samuel from [BecomeaBlogger.com](http://BecomeaBlogger.com) where we're changing the world one blog at a time. As usual, I have another exciting episode for you today. In today's episode, I'm going to be talking about *ten things to do outside of blogging to help grow your blog*.

As bloggers, we tend to be at our computers a whole lot, writing, recording podcasts, making videos and we get stuck in this little tiny bubble trying to build a platform where we can create content, inspire others and even change the world.

Unfortunately, this can only take us so far... or fortunately, depending on how you look at it. In many ways, these other things outside our blogging can take our blog growth to the next level. They are helping me grow my online presence significantly and I want to share them with you so, you can do the same. That's what we're going to talk about today.

All right, all right. We got so much to cover in this episode. The three basic things we're going to do in this episode, just so you can have an idea of what's going on, first, I'm going to give some announcements and then, I'm going to take three questions that were called in to the hotline. They were actually called in a while ago because I opened it up to do some Q&A episodes but, I'm going to be taking the rest of these questions in addition to any questions that get called into the hotline from now on, as usual.

I'll be taking them and spreading them out throughout the different episodes so, we can get the questions but, we can also get to some other content that I'm just excited to share with you.

So, first the announcement then, the three questions then, I'm going to talk about the ten things that you can do outside of blogging to help grow your blog.

But, before we get into it, I want to let you know that of course that this podcast is brought to you by my free videos at [freebloggingvideos.com](http://freebloggingvideos.com) where I show you how to start your blog today. So, head on over there and start creating content to inspire others and even change the world over at [freebloggingvideos.com](http://freebloggingvideos.com).

## The Announcements

Let's get into our announcements. Announcement number one, numero uno! I am back from the country of Columbia and it was an experience. If you didn't listen to one of the previous episodes where I spoke about this, my mom who lives in St. Maarten was going to Columbia to get some medical treatment. She's actually still down there. She'll be there for a while and I wanted to go down just to be with her to support her and all that good stuff.

So, I went down for about ten days and it was a great experience to be there with her but, I also had three days before where I just had time to myself. I shared in the last episode, [Episode 111](#) some of the things that happened as a result of that.

But, I'm back now. I will be going back on Thursday. I'm here just for two more days and then, I'm leaving the country again to go back down to Columbia to be with her for another week. So, because of that, I am not 100% sure if there will be a podcast episode next week. There might be but, there may not be.

So, if you come to listen to another episode and it's not there, please forgive me. Please forgive me. I knew not what I do. Okay, well, I just got a flashback. Sorry, I had to do that.

Next week, maybe episode, maybe not. Just be patient with me. If there is, I will send out a broadcast and let everyone know so that, you can check it out. I'm hoping that there will be. But, we'll see how it goes. That's announcement number one.

Announcement number two. I'm going to be speaking at the [Savvy Blogging Summit](#) in Cincinnati, Ohio. That's going to be from June 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>. Now, I don't think, I'm not sure but, I don't think I have ever been to Cincinnati. But, I'm excited to go there. I'm going to be talking about podcasting. Exactly what about podcasting? I'm not sure as yet. Still working out the details but, I am excited about being there.

And, for right now, I'm just thinking about doing a meet up in Cincinnati, Ohio. If you are in the area or close enough that you would come by to Cincinnati and hang out for a little bit, I want you to let me know. You can do that by coming to the show notes of this episode at [becomeablogger.com/episode112](http://becomeablogger.com/episode112) and let me know in the comments.

Let me know, "Hey, I live in Cincinnati. I'd love to be at the meet up," or whatever the case might be. If I get two people, I'm going to do a meet up. If I get 200 people, I'm going to do a meet up. I don't think I'll get 200 people but, I just want to know if there are people in that area that listen to Learning with Leslie, that check out Become a Blogger that would be interested in doing a meet up. If so, let me know and we will work it out.

I've never done one of these before but, I'd be happy, extremely happy to do want to meet you in person if you live in that area. Also, if you want to find out about the Savvy Blogging Summit, just go to [savvybloggingsummit.com](http://savvybloggingsummit.com).



As I mentioned, I'm going to be speaking on the topic of podcasting and I am excited to be doing. Just a little bit about it, let me come here to the website. It says here,

*"With awesome speakers, practical sessions and great networking opportunities, you will be challenged every minute of the event to take your blog to new heights. From hobby bloggers who are looking to turn their blogs into a business to the seasoned six-figure bloggers, there will be something for every level at the 2013 Summit."*

I am very excited about this. I am very good friends with one of the organizers and we have been speaking about it for a while and it just seems like it's a type of conference that helps people that are blogging but, they want to really hone in on making their blog into a business, not just blogging for fun, which is a big part of it but, also how do you take care of the business aspects? How do you get sponsorships? How do you monetize your blog? How do you optimize your blog for sales and conversions and all those types of things?

If you're interested in just coming to this session, just go to [savvybloggingsummit.com](http://savvybloggingsummit.com). I would love to meet you there.

Okay, so those are my two announcements.

# The Questions

Let's then move on to the questions. I have three questions I'm going to take on this episode. Those questions, the first one is from Kathy Strahan from [LeanBodyWorks.com](http://LeanBodyWorks.com). It's about AdSense.



The second question is from Lucy Jennings. She has a question about Feedblitz. Lastly, there's Tumi from Nigeria has a question about Wordpress theme.



## #1: Reactivating Google AdSense using a Different Account

Let's get to the first question from Kathy from LeanBodyWorks.com. Kathy, take it away.

*"Hello Leslie, thanks for this opportunity. My name is Kathy Strahan from Southern California. My website is LeanBodyWorks.com. This is a follow up question to a concern I had way back before Christmas. You answered it really beautifully. That's concerning AdSense and I got banned.*

*Here's my question. I am willing to open a new account with my husband's name for instance. That's not a problem. But, my concern is, will they notice that Lean Body Works is a former website that I used before with a different account? Do you see where I am going? I don't mind using a different name but, will there be other clues that will lead them back to this other account that is banned, an AdSense banned account, okay? I hope that's clear and thank you again. Bye."*

That is extremely clear. Thank you for calling it in, Kathy. I feel your pain.

I was banned from [Google AdSense](http://Google AdSense) probably back in 1998 or 1999 and since then, they have never reinstated my account. I have tried to get it reinstated a few times and even a decade later, and they still wouldn't reactivate my account. So, I feel your pain. I know exactly where you're coming from.

Here's the thing.

You got to be careful with Google AdSense. These guys, they're smart, number one. Once they ban your account, it's just hard to get another one. I've heard of people that have gotten others but, I did exactly what you did. I got an account in my wife's name and that's the way I was able to start making money with AdSense again.

Now, here's the thing. With Google AdSense, there's something that's called a [Google AdSense Sandbox](#). There are bunch of them all over the web and if you come back to this episode, I have a link to on in the show notes. This is Episode 112, [becomeablogger.com/episode112](http://becomeablogger.com/episode112).

What that does is it tells you if your website was banned. They can ban you and they can ban your website or, they can ban both. This sandbox allows you to put your URL in there and then, it does a scan and it tells you whether it has been banned or not.

Fortunately, for you, I actually went ahead and did this. I put your URL, [leanbodyworks.com](http://leanbodyworks.com) into the Google AdSense Sandbox and it says that your website was not banned. I don't think you're going to have a problem.

But, I would still be careful. Personally, if I were doing this, I would have it approved on a different website. If you decide to put it back on [LeanBodyWorks.com](http://LeanBodyWorks.com) and make sure you understand why you were banned in the first place, and make sure that your website is not going to be violating their terms and conditions and you are sure about that then, I would go ahead and put it back on that site.

That's exactly what I did personally. I am no AdSense expert. I don't fully understand Google. No one fully understands Google but, that's the way I would go about it. Once again, I check the sandbox and it showed that your site was okay. You should be fine to put AdSense on that site. I wouldn't worry about it too much.

If Google AdSense doesn't work out, Google AdSense honestly, isn't the best way to make money with your blog. There are many other ways that you can explore. I talk a lot about that in many of my other episodes. So, I'm not going to get into that in detail.

## **#2: Information and Ideas about Feedblitz**

I hope that answers your question. And, we're going to move on to the next one from Luc Jennings about [Feedblitz](#). So, take it away, Lucy.

*"Hello Leslie! This is Lucy Jennings. My question is, can you please give us advice on Feedblitz? I really like the way your emails look. They are so professional and crisp looking. I'd like to know more details about it. I looked on the site. I always like your advice. Thanks, bye!"*

You are very much welcome. Hey, thank you so much for calling in that question, Lucy.

Feedblitz. Feedblitz is a service that I just recently started using. I'll give you the background as to why I'm using it.

I've been a [FeedBurner](#) user since the beginning of my blogging efforts. FeedBurner is a service, now it's owned by Google and it's a service where you can burn your RSS feeds and what that basically means is that it's going to format it for all types of different readers.

Whether someone is using Google Reader which is being closed down or [Feedly](#) or whether you are submitting your feed to [iTunes](#) for your podcast or whatever the case might be, FeedBurner takes it and formats it in a way that makes it easy to consume, not only easy to consume, but it also makes it friendly for all these different services.

Now, here's the problem. Google has not been supporting Feedblitz for the last few years. That concerns me. I get the feeling and there's a lot of rumors that have been going around but, I get the feeling that eventually, FeedBurner might no longer be with us.

Not only that, I don't like using a service that plays a vital part in my business but, offers no customer support. I decided to look for a different option. In looking around, the one that a lot of people recommended was Feedblitz.

I actually met the owner of Feedblitz, Phil Hollows at New Media Expo. I spoke to him about it and it seemed like a good service. I signed up for Feedblitz. It's a paid service. It's a paid version. My explanation is it's a paid version of FeedBurner but, they offer customer support. That, to me is huge.

If you are just using it for RSS, it's \$1.49 a month. That's not a lot of money. However, if you're doing RSS to email where someone can submit their email address and get your blog post sent to them via email then, it's going to be higher. It's going to be more than that.

For example, for up to 999 subscribers, it's \$13.95 and you can go up from there. It's not a very expensive service but, it does the job. It offers customer support and if you are just using it for RSS, it is \$1.49 per month.

They have decent features. Personally, I was not happy with the way it supports podcasts but, I was told by Phil Hollows that they are now supporting it. I haven't fully checked that out but, I will be checking it out in the future.

hope that answers your question, Lucy.

### **#3: Using Wordpress Themes**

Let's take the next one from Tumi all the way from Nigeria.

*"Hi Leslie! I'm Tumi from Nigeria. Thank you for this opportunity to ask the question. I want to ask about the theme that you use for your website especially the [Interactive Biology](#) using themes like [unclear] theme, [Woo Theme](#), I want to know more about those themes. Thank you very much, bye! "*

You are very much welcome and thank you for calling in that question. You know, I just get excited when I hear people calling in from all over the world, not just the United States or anything of that sort, people from Nigeria. There's another caller from Malaysia and there are callers from pretty much all over the world. That is the power of blogging, of podcasting. You get to connect with people from everywhere and to me, that's what it's all about. Ah, I just get excited. Okay, so let me get through your question Tumi before I just get all derailed and all that stuff.

To answer your question, when it comes to Wordpress themes, themes are important in that they determine the overall layout, the design of your website. They are important but, they are not as important as we make them out to be especially in the beginning. This is my personal opinion.

What you want to do is find something that looks good, find something that organizes your content in a way that you want it to be organized and just go with it. There are so many themes out there and you can even start with a free theme.

In my Become a Blogger course, I talk about that and I talk about premium themes and premium themes offer premium features and premium support but, they do not drive your business. Content is king when it comes to your business and once you have great content, people are more forgiving of design.

That being said, having a nice and attractive theme really gives a good impression of your blog. When someone comes to your blog, you want them to think, ah, this is a professional blog or this is a fun blog, depending on what exactly you're going for, you want them to get that feel.

With my [Interactive Biology blog](#), the one that I'm using right now is called [DeTube](#). I'll include a link to where I purchased it in the Show Notes. I think the place that I purchased it is, yes, [ThemeForest.net](#). You can either just go there and search for it or you can come back to this episode and you can get the link directly to it.

The reason I chose it is it was kind of formatted like [YouTube](#). Since the main thing for my Biology blog is my Biology videos, I wanted to go with that video feel. It does a very good job at doing that. It's responsive so, it looks good on your computer, on your iPad, your iPhone, your Android device regardless of what you do it on, it looks good. I like it so, it works for me.

Find a theme that you like. Go with it. For Premium Themes, I like Woo Themes. I like [Elegant Themes](#), [Thesis Themes](#)... It's okay. A lot of the themes, when it comes to the features and so on they offer, many times, it's just marketing. It's just me trying to make my theme sound better than everyone else's so that you can pay for it. It's not necessary but, it is valuable depending on the theme that you get.

All right, oh wow! Nineteen minutes already! I get long-winded when I answer you guys this question. But, as long as it's offering value, that's pretty much what I care about and if you have a question that you want me to get long-winded about and answer it on this podcast, you can call the hotline and that number is 888-835-2414. Get that stuck in your brain so that, anytime you think about a blogging question, you can go ahead and call the number at 888-835-2414.

## Helping your Blog Grow Outside Blogging

Let's now talk about these ten things that you can do outside of blogging to help grow your blog so that you don't get stuck in this rut of, "You know I'm just blogging. I'm just blogging. It's just me in this room. What can you do?"



I want to talk about these ten things that I have been doing and that I have seen have really helped the growth of my blog.

### **#1: Attend Live Conferences**

Thing number one, I don't like calling it thing number... Let's go with thing number one. Anyhow, thing number one, attend live conferences.

This is something that I underestimated until I started going to these live conferences. My first time was when I went to the Financial Bloggers Conference. It was in Illinois.

I went because I heard that [Pat Flynn](#) and [Cliff Ravenscraft](#)

were doing a meet up. I thought to myself, "Hey, that's two hours away. I can go and check it out." Here was the person that put it together, Philip Taylor from [PTMoney.com](http://PTMoney.com). I figured, "Hey, this will be a cool opportunity to meet some of these people in person."

Then, from there, I went into Blog World where I did a session there, a panel discussion and then, I went to New Media Expo in Vegas just last January where I spoke about podcasting but, as I mentioned at the beginning, I'm going to the Savvy Blogging Conference in June.

I really can't describe how awesome my experiences have been. In terms of being able to rub shoulders with other like-minded individuals that are doing things like I am doing, you talk to your friends and your family about blogging and everyone is like, "I don't understand why you are blogging. And, what is this blogging thing all about? How is it a business?"

But, to connect with people that are into whatever it is you're into, face to face, that is powerful. It really helps you to nurture relationships that can really grow your business, grow your blog, your brand, all that jazz.

Now, this is something that, I'm talking about it within the context of blogging, people that are bloggers. But, even outside of blogging.

For example, I have my Biology blog where I do Anatomy and Physiology videos. In May, is it May? Yes, next month. I'm going to a Human Anatomy and Physiology conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. I'm excited about that.

That's my first conference outside of teaching people to blog and all that kind of stuff but, it's about something that I'm passionate about. It's in my niche and it's going to allow me to connect with other people that are passionate about similar things when it comes to my Biology blog and those types of things.

So, whatever your niche is, there are conferences that are in your niche or related to your niche, find them. Just do a search. The way I found this Anatomy and Physiology conference was I did a Google search for Anatomy and Physiology conferences and lo and behold! There was one that is offered everywhere, and in Vegas this year. So, I'll be in Vegas twice this year and I am excited to go to that one because it's something that's different and it's something that is related to my blog.

## **#2: Meet Ups**

So, number one, thing number one is go to conferences. Attend conferences. Thing number two, I've spoken about it already – meet ups. Meet ups are powerful because once again, you

are getting to rub shoulders with people that are passionate about the same things that you are passionate about.

The first two that I have gone to were the meet ups that Pat Flynn and Cliff Ravenscraft put together. The first one was in Illinois. The second one was in Vegas and actually, the second one was just Pat Flynn.



But, being able to connect with people, the second one had about a hundred people, I think, if I remember correctly, coming in and out but, you got to sit around and talk and eat some food and laugh and connect with people and many of the people that I connected with personally at these meet ups are people that I connect with today on a regular basis, whether it's tweeting at them or talking on Facebook or talking on Skype, whatever the case

might be. Meeting in person does something for those relationships.

Now, if you don't know about which meet ups are going on or you don't know people in your niche, just go to [meetup.com](http://meetup.com). You'd be surprised. You could search for specific topics and find people that are doing meet ups in your area.

This, of course, is if you are in the US. I don't know if it's also all across the world but, you can check it out and try to see if there are things in your area that you are interested in and you would be surprised.

A friend of mine, Chris from [DayJobKnockout.com](http://DayJobKnockout.com), he has just started getting into meet ups from meetup.com and he is actually using them to do presentation. He would set up a meet up and people would come to learn about Twitter, or about social media and those types of things and it's a good way to start building an audience even.

So, meet ups, thing number two. Thing number one, conferences. Thing number two, meet ups.

### **#3: Events**

Thing number three, events.

This kind of sound similar to the first two and it is in some ways but, I'm talking about events like, I blog about Biology so, I might go to research symposiums, or science fairs. You might be

a food blogger. You can go to food tasting events or if you're into art, you can go to art shows and all these different types of events within your niche.

Think about your niche. Think about what people are doing, what types of events are out there and go to those events. If nothing else, it can give you ideas for content and as we know, content is king. Event is another great way to do things outside of your blog that will help your blog.

#### **#4: Skype Calls**

Thing number four, Skype calls. Sounds simple and you probably already do that to connect with friends, to connect with family. When I was in Columbia, I was Skyping with my wife to see little Noah and all that kind of stuff. I'm skyping with my dad at home. I'm skyping with family. I'm skyping with friends.

[Skype](#) is awesome because you can talk to people, you can see people and this helps you to take your connections to the next level.

Now, just think about this. Let's say someone comes to your blog and they love what you do at your blog and they are so excited about the content and you offer to do a quick Skype call with them. You connect with them. You talk to them on video and you engage them in the topic that you are blogging about. What would that do for your connection with that person?

Now, you may be thinking, "Yes, but that's just one person." I will respond by saying, "Yes, but that is one person. One person, that is so valuable." So, to be able to connect with that one valuable person, for me to be able to connect with you, I just think that's awesome.

So, by doing Skype calls, you can help to take those relationships once again to the next level. You probably notice, a lot of this is heavily involved in nurturing relationships, in strengthening relationships because remember, you're not just building a business.

Yes, you're building a business but, that business is built with people, with interaction, with connection. That's how you can take things to the next level. That's thing number one, two, three, four.

#### **#5: Social Media**

Let's go to thing number five. Another way of connecting. That is social media. Okay, so, you're probably thinking, "Yes, yes but, that's involved with blogging." But, I'm talking about using social media to get real connections with people and even doing things outside of your

niche with those people because you know what? I don't only care about blogging. I don't only care about Biology. There are so many things I care about.

To be able to share those things with people in my audience, people that I'm connecting with, networking with, it really helps you to solidify and strengthen those connections.

For example, on Facebook right now, I have connected with so many people. How many people have I connected with on Facebook? Let's see right now really quick. I have 2,143 friends.



Now, of course, I don't know every one of them personally but, I am getting to connect with more of them on a regular basis.

Right now, we have this thing that we're doing where I have the Nike Plus app installed on my phone and I go running every morning. It tracks my runs and I am actually right now competing with people all over the world that I'm friends with on Facebook, friendly competition. Right now, I'm number six in line and I'm trying to get up to that number one. That number one person right now is Pat Flynn and he annoys me because my goal is to take him down.

But, you see, that has nothing to do with blogging. But, it's a part of my life. It's a part of his life. It's a part of some of the other people that I am running with. Their lives, Cesar Abid and Spencer Jones. You may not know those people but, I have connected with them on Facebook and we are running together in different parts of the world.

Just doing those types of things, sharing pictures, videos and so on, I think is very powerful. I'm actually working on something right now behind the scenes where I can interact with you more on social media, not specifically with blogging but, just to connect, just to be real and have those types of relationships where I know you by name but, not just by name. I know you because you just had a son, like I did like my little Noah and those types of things. Real connections. Taking things to the next level because you know what? I love interacting with you.

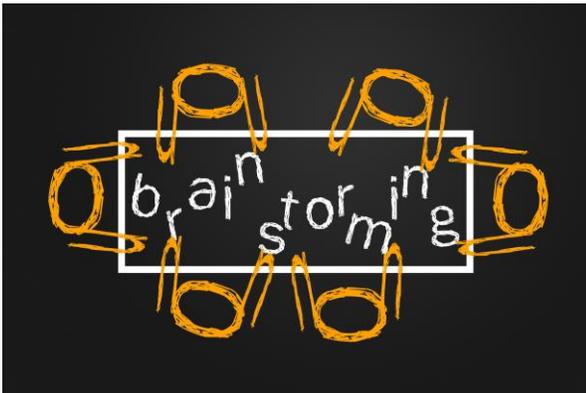
If I had to choose between interacting with you, interacting with the people that are listening to this podcast and money, just doing a business for money, I would choose this any day over the money stuff. Money is good and I like money but, I like connections even more.

That's thing number five. We got five more to go. Good stuff here.

## #6: Form Mastermind Groups

Number six, mastermind groups. Oh, I can't tell you how valuable this is. My first real exposure to a mastermind group, it was kind of an informal mastermind group and it is still going on.

My good friend Chris from DayJobKnockout.com from way back in 2008, we connected and we started talking on the phone. I actually went down to visit him and any time I'm doing something, we kind of bounce our ideas off of each other and get feedback, get input, sometimes cut each other's idea down and say, "That's stupid. You don't want to do that." Of course, not in that way.



But, it really helps to move you forward when you have someone that can bounce those ideas off of and then, when we were re-launching Become a Blogger, I had a little mastermind group with Gideon Shalwick, Yaro Starak and myself and we'd meet every two weeks and every week at one point when we were getting right there into the launch and so on. It was just invaluable.

Now, we just started this but, a mastermind group with Pat Flynn, Cliff Ravenscraft and Mark Mason. Every week, we get on a call and we discuss our business. We discuss what we are trying to accomplish and it really helps us to hold each other accountable and take things to the next level.

I know there are people in the [Become a Blogger community](#) that have started their own masterminds within the community. Robert Harper, he started one and I know they meet on a regular basis. Dr. Nikki, she has another mastermind group going on. It's just great to see people making those genuine connections, holding each other accountable and working on taking what they are doing up a notch, taking it up to the next level and that's what it's all about. So, number six, mastermind groups.

## #7: Take classes.

Number seven, this one doesn't have to. Now, we're moving from just connecting with people to expanding your mind. Number seven would be to take classes. I know. This is school I am talking to you about or not even just school but, just taking classes, educating yourself so that, you can become a better you, educating yourself on stuff in your niche whether you're blogging about Biology or whatever the case might be.

For example, I know that I love audio. So, what I did is I did a Recording Engineering Certification, and I took that course. So, now I am a certified recording engineer. And, you know what? That helps me now with my podcasting. I know a lot more about podcasting because of that course, that certification that I went through.

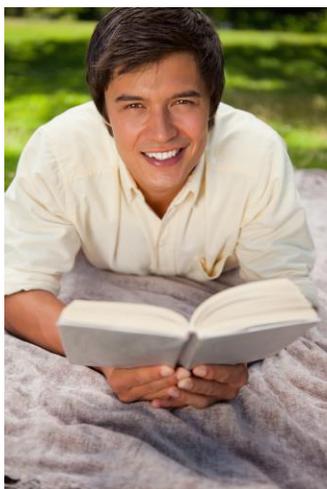
This can be something as simple as taking a class in your local community college that's related to your niche so that, you can learn more to be able to share more, higher value content so that, you can then share that content with your audience.

## **#8: Read books.**

It doesn't have to be at a college. It can just be like a local cooking class for example, anything to help you learn more about your niche. It's a great idea. Another way which is tip number eight, or thing number eight is to read books.

Oh, I love doing this. I love to read. When I was younger, I hated reading. Oh man, I remember to graduate from high school in St. Maarten. You guys in the US have it easy but, in St. Maarten, I have to read fifteen Dutch books, twelve English books, eight Spanish books, eight French books, do a written report in the language and then, an oral report at the end of the year. Yes, that's a whole lot of reading.

I was a terrible student so, I didn't do all the reading but, now, I love reading. I love reading to expand my mind, to learn new things so that, I can be up to date as to the knowledge that's out there and I can share that content with you.



Some of my favorite books when it comes to online business or just business in general would be number one, "*Rich Dad, Poor Dad*." That was THE book that really got me interested in entrepreneurship. "*Crush It!*" by Gary Vaynerchuck. Love it, love it, love it, read it then, listened to it a few times, a bunch of times actually.

Another one, "*How to Win Friends and Influence People*." That is one of my favorite books.

Just reading, reading to educate yourself and to be more informed about what it is you're talking about. I've heard this question a lot. How do you come up with ideas for content? This is one great way to come up with ideas for content. READ. Open the book. Or, if you don't want to read necessarily, you can go with audio books.

This is something that I started doing probably about a year ago and I fell in love with it.

[Audible](#) is a service where you can pay monthly and get audio books delivered to your device whether it's your smartphone or whatever the case might be or download it on your computer.

I listen to audio books sometimes when I'm running, when I'm cleaning, when I'm doing stuff around the house, whatever it is I'm doing, I can listen to an audio book and still consume that content.

If you want to check it out [becomeablogger.com/audible](http://becomeablogger.com/audible). That is an affiliate link so, I do get a little bit of a commission if you do sign up. But, it is such a great service. I highly recommend it. I love it. I love it. I love it almost as much as I love listening to podcasts.

Okay, so that's thing number eight.

## **#9: Read books.**

Thing number nine. We only have two more so, let's do it.

Thing number nine, random fun stuff. This has absolutely nothing to do with blogging but, it has everything to do with having fun and I love to have some fun!

I remember last year, I did a video when I went out segueing. I went on a segue tour of Grand Rapids, Michigan and I recorded a video and I posted that in the blog. But, it was just something that was fun. It's a change in pace.

It seems like we are always bogged down with all the work that we have to do. I know I get bogged down and sometimes, just people getting out there and doing something fun, going segueing, going to a party, whatever you do for fun, do that. Just random fun stuff.

One of the things that I want to do and I'm looking forward to doing this is sky diving. Have you ever been sky diving? I have never done it but, I want to do it. It's on my bucket list that I am creating right now.

## **#10: Relax and take a break!**

So, that's number nine and we have one more thing that's thing number ten. That is to relax and take a break. All work and no play makes jack-a-dull boy. You don't want to be a dull boy. Dull boys are so dull. You don't want to do that. That's just whack. When I went out to Columbia and I had three days by myself, it was great. I just had time to just relax a little bit.



This really helps. It helps to clear your mind. It helps to refocus you so that, when you get back to work, you can fully get back to work.

If you're just constantly working and never taking a break, you're not going to be operating at your fullest potential.

I'm not just talking about these big trips and big breaks or anything of that sort. Even the regular day to day breaks

where you don't focus on anything or you just relax. You spend some time with your family.

For me, first thing in the morning, you just sit there. You get your thoughts together. For me, I do my devotions and so on. It's a break. It's a change in pace. It's a way for me to relax, get my thoughts together and then, when it's time to get back to business, we get back to business.

Those are my ten things I hope you found value in it. Let me recap those ten things.

Number one, go to conferences. Number two, attend meet ups. Number three, events... I guess, I could start my music, right? Let me do that while I'm doing this, all right?

Events, number three. Number four, Skype calls. Number five, social media and real connections and social media. Number six, form a mastermind group even if you do it within the Become a Blogger community. I would love for you to do that. Number seven, attend classes to educate yourself. Number eight, read books or listen to books on Audible, [becomeablogger.com/audible](http://becomeablogger.com/audible). Number nine, do random fun stuff and number ten, relax and take a break.

That's all, yes! Those are my ten tips.

As usual, we're ending this off. This episode was brought to you by my free videos on how to become a blogger over at [freebloggingvideos.com](http://freebloggingvideos.com) where you can avoid the hassle and stress of not knowing how to get your blog up and running.

I have personally seen that that's one of the biggest things that hold people back from starting their blogs so, I created this to help you so that, you don't have to go through that headache. [Freebloggingvideos.com](http://Freebloggingvideos.com), check them out today.

That's all I got to say in this episode. I had a lot of fun. I'm so excited to get back to podcasting. Hopefully, I can have another episode for you next week. But, if not, I know you will forgive me and I thank you in advance.

But, that's all. I got to say so. Until next time, take care and God bless.