


South Africa
Edition



Free eBook 



10 Businesses You Can Start This Week With Only Your Phone

No Wifi Needed - Only Your Hustle!



Learn More



10 Businesses You Can Start This Week

With Only Your Phone

A free taster from the Hustle Without WiFi ebook by LifeReadySA

Let's be honest.

You have probably heard "start a business" a hundred times. And every time, the advice sounds the same: get a business plan, register a company, find investors, build a website.

That advice is not for you. It was written for someone with a laptop, a stable income, and a business degree. Not for a young South African with a basic phone, limited data, and R200 in their pocket.

This guide is different. Everything in here can be started this week, with your phone, with limited data, and with less than R500. No laptop. No office. No business degree required.

These are real businesses that real South African young people are running right now — from their kitchens, their bedrooms, and their stoeps. And they are making real money.

*You do not need perfect conditions to start.
You need a phone, a plan, and the courage to begin.*

Before You Start: The 3 Things Every Hustler Needs

Before we get into the business ideas, here are the three non-negotiables. Every business in this guide requires these three things:

1. WhatsApp Business (Free)

Download it from the Google Play Store. Set up your business profile, add your products to the catalogue, and turn on automatic greeting messages. This is your shop, your marketing tool, and your customer service desk — all in one free app.

2. A Way to Receive Money

Set up at least one of these: PayShap (instant payments via phone number — available through Capitec, FNB, Standard Bank, Absa, Nedbank), SnapScan (QR code payments — free to set up at snapscan.io), or EFT (share your bank account details with customers). You need to be able to get paid before you can make money.

3. A Bank Account

If you do not have one, open a TymeBank account today. You can do it at any Pick n Pay or Boxer store with just your ID. It takes 5 minutes and has no monthly fees. This is your business account. Another good banking option is Capitec, you can open an account easily online within minutes.

QUICK SETUP CHECKLIST



QUICK SETUP CHECKLIST



WhatsApp Business installed



PayShap or **SnapScan** active



Bank account open



Canva downloaded (free, for making **Posters**)



Snapseed downloaded (free, for editing photos)



10 Businesses You Can Start This Week

1. Home Baking — Muffins, Cookies & Vetkoek

DETAIL	INFO
Startup cost	R100 – R200
Time to first sale	3 – 5 days
Earning potential	R1 500 – R4 000/month

Bake from your home kitchen and sell to neighbours, offices, schools, and churches. Start with one product — muffins are perfect because they are quick, cheap to make, and everyone loves them.

How to start:

1. Bake a test batch of 12 muffins (cost: about R40)
2. Take a beautiful photo near a window in natural light
3. Post on WhatsApp Status: "Fresh muffins — R40 for 6. Order now!"
4. Take pre-orders, bake fresh, deliver or arrange collection

2. Body Butter & Homemade Beauty Products

DETAIL	INFO
Startup cost	R180 – R280
Time to first sale	1 – 2 weeks
Earning potential	R2 000 – R5 000/month

Make shea butter body cream, body scrubs, lip balm, and roll-on perfume at home and sell them via WhatsApp. The beauty industry in South Africa is worth billions — and customers love buying from a local, personal brand they trust.

What to buy to start:

- Shea butter 500g — R45 to R65 (Clicks or Dischem)
- Coconut oil 500ml — R35 to R55
- Fragrance oils (3 scents) — R60 to R90 (craft shops)
- Small jars (10 pack) — R30 to R50 (Crazy Store or Mr Price Home)

PRO TIP: Create a signature scent. When people smell it, they think of your brand. That is how you build loyal customers who come back every month.

Wanting to learn more about starting your own perfume business in South Africa. Sign up for the complete course at lifereadysa.org.za

3. Mobile Car Wash

DETAIL	INFO
Startup cost	R150 – R350
Time to first sale	1 – 3 days
Earning potential	R2 500 – R5 000/month

You go to your customers' homes or workplaces and wash their cars. You bring all the equipment. No shop needed. No rent. Just your hands, your supplies, and your phone to take bookings.

You can make R400 to R600 in one day.

4. WhatsApp Catalogue Reseller

DETAIL	INFO
Startup cost	R0 – R100
Time to first sale	1 – 3 days
Earning potential	R1 500 – R5 000/month

Find a supplier (clothing, beauty products, phone accessories, household items), get their photos and prices, mark them up by 20% to 50%, and sell through your WhatsApp. You only buy stock after a customer has already paid you. Zero risk. Zero upfront stock cost.

***KEY RULE:** Always collect payment from your customer **BEFORE** you order from your supplier. This way you never spend money you do not have.*

5. Meal Prep & Lunch Boxes

DETAIL	INFO
Startup cost	R200 – R400
Time to first sale	3 – 7 days
Earning potential	R2 000 – R5 000/month

Cook meals and sell them as daily lunch boxes or weekly meal prep packages. Working people are tired of spending R60 to R100 on fast food every day.

A home-cooked lunch box for R40 to R55 is a deal they cannot refuse. Target one office building or workplace.

If you can get 10 people ordering from you in one building, your delivery is efficient and your income is predictable.



6. Nail Technician

DETAIL	INFO
Startup cost	R300 – R700
Time to first sale	1 – 2 weeks
Earning potential	R3 000 – R7 000/month

Do nails from your home or visit clients at their homes. Gel manicures, acrylic sets, nail art, pedicures. Women spend hundreds of rands every month on their nails. A skilled nail tech who is affordable and reliable will never be short of clients.

Starter kit:

- Gel nail kit with UV lamp
- Nail files, buffers, and tools
- Nail art supplies

Charge R120 to R180 for a gel manicure. Post nail photos on WhatsApp Status daily — nail content gets massive attention. Build a portfolio on your phone and let your work speak for itself.

7. Candle Making

DETAIL	INFO
Startup cost	R200 – R400
Time to first sale	1 – 2 weeks
Earning potential	R2 000 – R6 000/month

Make scented soy candles at home and sell them as gifts, home decor, and corporate gifts. The homemade candle market in South Africa is growing fast. People love buying beautiful, locally made candles — especially as gifts.

The real money is in corporate orders. Offer companies custom-labelled candles for staff gifts or client gifts. A minimum order of 30 candles at R100 each earns you R3 000 from one client.

8. Tutoring & Homework Help

DETAIL	INFO
Startup cost	R0 – R50
Time to first sale	1 week
Earning potential	R2 000 – R5 000/month



If you passed matric with good marks in any subject — especially Maths, Science, English, or Accounting — you can tutor school learners and get paid for it.

Your startup cost is almost zero. Your brain is your product.

Charge R80 to R150 per hour for individual sessions, or R40 to R70 per learner for group sessions.

During exam season (September to November), demand skyrockets. Offer intensive exam prep packages and charge a premium.

9. Hairdressing & Braiding

DETAIL	INFO
Startup cost	R100 – R400
Time to first sale	1 – 2 weeks
Earning potential	R3 000 – R7 000/month

Do hair from your home or visit clients. Box braids, knotless braids, cornrows, wash and blow-dry, weaves, natural hair styling. Most women get their hair done every 2 to 4 weeks — which means repeat business is built in.

Post before-and-after photos on WhatsApp Status every time you finish a client. Hair photos get enormous attention. Build your portfolio on your phone. Specialise in one style and become known as the best in your area.

10. Printing & Copying Services

DETAIL	INFO
Startup cost	R800 – R2 500
Time to first sale	1 week
Earning potential	R2 000 – R4 500/month

If you have a printer (or can buy a second-hand one for R400 to R800), you can offer printing, copying, scanning, and laminating services from your home. In many townships and rural areas, the nearest printing shop is far away. You fill that gap.

The One Rule That Changes Everything

Every successful business in this guide follows one rule:
Solve a problem that people in your area already have.

Find that problem. Solve it. Get paid.

It really is that simple. Not easy — but simple.

Do not sell what you like. Sell what people need. Look around your community. What do people complain about? What do they have to travel far to get? What do they spend money on every week?

Your 7-Day Action Plan

Do not read this and do nothing. Here is exactly what to do this week:

A vertical graphic titled "7-Day Action Plan — to Start Your Business —" with a rocket icon. It lists seven daily tasks in colored banners, each with an icon: Day 1 (orange) - Choose one business; Day 2 (green) - Download WhatsApp Business; Day 3 (blue) - Buy supplies; Day 4 (purple) - Take photos; Day 5 (orange) - Tell 10 people; Day 6 (teal) - Follow up; Day 7 (red) - Make first sale.

7-Day Action Plan
— to Start Your Business —

TODAY Choose one business from this list that fits your skills and budget.

DAY 2 Download WhatsApp Business & set up your profile. Set up PayShap.

DAY 3 Buy your startup supplies. Make your first product or prepare your service.

DAY 4 Take photos. Edit with Snapseed. Post on WhatsApp Status with your price.

DAY 5 Tell 10 people personally about your new business. Send a broadcast message.

DAY 6 Follow up with anyone who showed interest. Offer a small discount for first orders.

DAY 7 Make your first sale. Celebrate. Reinvest. Repeat.

COMMITMENT: Give your business 30 days of consistent effort before you judge whether it is working. Post on WhatsApp Status every day. Talk to potential customers every day. Make at least one sale every week.

Want the Full Guide?

Get the complete Hustle Without WiFi ebook

This free guide gave you 15+ ideas and a 7-day action plan. The full Hustle Without WiFi ebook goes much deeper — with over 20 complete business chapters, each one packed with:

- Full startup cost breakdown in South African rands
- Exact pricing guides for every product and service
- Step-by-step instructions to make your first sale

- Real stories of young South Africans who started with nothing
- Common mistakes to avoid (so you don't waste money)
- Pro tips from people who are already doing it
- A complete Phone Tools chapter — 10 free apps explained with data-saving tips
- A full "Taking Your First Step" section with checklists and record-keeping guides

Get The Complete Hustle Without WiFi Guides at lifereadysa.co.za/wififreehustle



What Young South Africans Are Saying

"I started selling body butter after reading the LifeReadySA guide. It wasn't easy but I kept pushing. In my first month I made R1 800, but by the 2nd month I had repeat orders with more sales. I couldn't believe it was possible with just R320 and my phone." — N.S., 19, Tembisa

"The car wash business changed my life. I was unemployed for 8 months. Now I earn between R2000 and R4 000 a month working mostly weekends only. All I needed was a bucket and the courage to knock on doors." — Siphon, 22, Khayelitsha

"I used to spend R80 a day on fast food at work. Now I order lunch boxes from a girl in my building for R45. She makes amazing food and I save money. We both win." — Office worker, Johannesburg



LifeReadySA

Empowering South African Youth to Build Real Businesses

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