

39 “Around-the-Web” Ways to Kick-Start Your Creativity

1. Explain what you're really trying to say to a stuffed animal
2. Lend your voice to a writing personality who isn't you
3. Focus on positive outcomes
4. Listen to new music
5. Write five words. Literally. Put five completely random words on a piece of paper. Write five more. Try a sentence - about anything. That creative block should end when you start making words on a page.
6. Surround yourself with creative people
7. Consume information by the bucket load. The more you know, the more you can create from that knowledge
8. If you're not on a tight deadline, walk away and do something unrelated
9. Remove obstacles to creativity
10. Experience sights, sounds and smells. Sitting still won't bring new ideas in; experimenting and trying new things will.
11. Don't judge your ideas until you have plenty to judge
12. Let your mind wander and come up with whatever it wants
13. Count your blessings. You'll feel happier & it'll help you be more creative
14. Drink a “whatever” with your buddies. Being happy will make you more productive. It will also give you greater enthusiasm.
15. Be in the moment. Athletes call this ‘being in the zone’. Give full attention to whatever you are doing: eating, washing dishes, making your bed
16. Practice asking yourself how to do something differently
17. Get some crayons and warm-up your creativity. Get a piece of paper and draw a totally useless picture of nothing at all.
18. Head to a café. We enjoy camaraderie. A change in surroundings can recharge your brain.
19. Embrace your inner grouch. Discontent may just be a vast, untapped source of creativity.
20. Let your mind wander. A wandering mind may allow your brain to search more widely for connections that could trigger a “eureka” moment.
21. Start fooling around. Splash the paint on. Scribble the words down. Sing.
22. Break the rules. Look at creative thinking as a destructive force. You're tearing away the often arbitrary rules that others have set for you.

23. Allow your mind to be at play. You've heard the expression "work hard and play hard." They're the same thing to a creative thinker.
24. Give yourself permission to turn everything that's accepted upside down and shake out the illusions.
25. Free yourself to make mistakes. Just try out your ideas. Ask yourself, what's the worst that can happen if I'm wrong?
26. Use life markers for ideas. Old photos, family stories, a journal entry, a souvenir from a trip, a collection you love or a piece of clothing—if you've saved it for a reason there is most likely a story there.
27. Do realize and remember that all creatives feel the same as you do from time to time and some of the most successful are driven forward by tremendous self doubt. Turn the negative feelings into positive self motivation.
28. Awaken your sense of wonder. Take yourself on some small festive adventure. Think of something routine you do on a daily basis and find a way to give it a little more pizzazz.
29. Don't Force It. Stop. Do something else. When you get back you will feel far more refreshed and ready to get started.
30. Write/sketch/paint simply and vividly
31. Shut out the outside world
32. Look for inspiration all around you, in the smallest places.
33. Ignore the naysayers
34. Read wildly different things - Especially stuff you disagree with.
35. Don't force it. Relax, play, it will start to flow.
36. Allow your mind to wander. Allow distractions when looking for inspiration.
37. Don't be afraid to be stupid and silly
38. Small ideas are good. You don't need to change the world — just one thing.
39. When something is killing your creativity, kill it.

There's more out there if you think about it and observe. :)
Appreciation to Katie Tallo of Momentum Gathering and writetodone.com.

