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Thread: [Leaving Stability to Build Something of Your Own: The Hardest Part?](#)

Axelyn - December 14, 2025, 12:34 am

Leaving Stability to Build Something of Your Own: What Was the Hardest Part After the Jump?

A few weeks ago I shared this thread: <https://hackforums.net/showthread.php?tid=6313809>

The replies were a mix of encouragement, caution, and honest reality checks, all of which I genuinely appreciated.

Now that some time has passed, I am noticing something interesting:
The hardest part was not quitting.

It was what came after.

Not having a fixed structure.

Not having external deadlines.

Having full freedom, but also full responsibility for momentum, discipline, and direction.

Some days feel productive and aligned. Other days feel scattered, even when I am “working all day.” That contrast is something I did not fully anticipate until I was living it.

So I want to ask a more specific question to people who have already walked this road:

If you left a stable path (job, routine, safety net) to build something of your own, what ended up being the hardest part after you made the jump?

Not the obvious risks everyone talks about, but the part that quietly challenged you: mental
structural
financial
identity-related

And if you are still in the transition phase, I am curious what you expect will be the hardest.

No hype. No one-line replies. Just honest perspective.

This forum has a lot of people who have actually tried, not just thought about it, and I would love to hear real experiences.

My own take so far:

For me personally, the hardest part has been building my own structure from scratch: deciding what matters, setting boundaries, and creating productive rhythms without someone else telling me what to do or when to do it. It is an ongoing experiment, and some days it feels like progress, other days it feels like a reset.

That contrast is teaching me something about discipline, clarity, and long-term focus that I never picked up while I was in a normal job.

helpmehack - December 14, 2025, 1:05 am

Never look back. I was relieved when i quit my job. The first 2-3 years are the hardest. Need self

discipline, work hard and everything will work out. Is it a long run though, not a sprint.

The hardest part i would say is time; i put all of myself in and my relationships suffered a bit, but it was worth it after 5 years. Would never go to a 9-5 again.

Axelyn - December 14, 2025, 1:54 am

(Dec 14, 2025 02:05 AM)helpmehack Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Never look back. I was relieved when i quit my job. The first 2-3 years are the hardest. Need self discipline, work hard and everything will work out. Is it a long run though, not a sprint.

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Thank you for sharing your experience. I can see how the first few years are the toughest. It makes sense that self-discipline and persistence are critical, especially when there is no external structure pushing you forward.

I also noticed that investing so much time into a new path can affect relationships and personal life. It is reassuring to hear that, even with those sacrifices, it was worth it for you after a few years.

RangoWorld - December 14, 2025, 2:31 am

I remember your old thread and commented on it.

It's hard to get structure around. When you are free to do anything. You realize you don't end up doing anything. Some restraints are necessary so you can feel a bit of pressure to get things done.

A thing that has helped me is planning my day and to do list ahead for the next day at night. I take 15 minutes to really consciously think and plan the day ahead. It's like me giving instructions to my future self. So that the next day I know exactly what I want to achieve today.

I also see people struggling with Motivation on their own. What you need to understand and make your mindset on is that often Motivation doesn't come on its own. Motivation comes after you take action.

People have that image upside down. Action leads to Motivation.

fantomiuz - December 16, 2025, 12:57 am

I feel you. Having all the freedom its easy to slack. A strict routine might be helpful, for me it is.

Terry A. Davis - December 16, 2025, 1:10 am

This is why lockdown was an awful time for me mentally.

I'm a creature of habit, back when I was in education, holidays weren't so for me since I would fall back into teenage mode faster than I could blink.