



# The five key skills of all successful entrepreneurs



Once the decision is made to follow a certain career path there is one question to ask – what skills will be needed? CEO of Universal Business School Sydney and author of The Unlikely Entrepreneur, Alan Manly explains the five key skills all successful entrepreneurs must have.

In the case of skills to be a successful entrepreneur, perhaps the secret is that there is no secret. Skills can be innate or learned, while the outcome may well be the same. So let's look at what having a skill is all about.

First, what exactly is a 'skill'? According to dictionary.com, a skill is "the ability, coming from one's knowledge, practice, aptitude, etc., to do something well". This definition includes several important elements that are crucial for any successful entrepreneur. However, entrepreneurship for many has insurmountable barriers and many folks may feel that they just don't have the skills to ultimately succeed.

Let's examine the five key skills that all successful entrepreneurs possess.

## 1. Ability

The power or capacity to do is a crucial element of success as an entrepreneur. Nike's famous slogan, "Just do it!", embodies this concept perfectly.

Many aspiring entrepreneurs are held back by their own self-doubt and the perceived obstacles in their way, but successful entrepreneurs know how to overcome these barriers and take action. Whether it's starting a new business, developing a new product, or launching a marketing campaign, successful entrepreneurs have the ability to bring their ideas to life.

# 2. Acquaintance with facts

Knowledge is power, and successful entrepreneurs know this better than anyone. They have a detailed knowledge of the industry and market they're entering and know their product or service in minute detail. This deep understanding of their business allows them to make informed decisions and avoid costly mistakes.

The need to know what you are talking about is often what separates success from failure. The sooner you can explain a working knowledge of what the great new idea is about, the less likely a poor investment will be made

### 3. Practice

Many would agree that being an entrepreneur requires a performance that is consistent with the image of someone others will have confidence in. Leaders are known to be habitual in the image that they present; successful entrepreneurs are known for their strong work ethic and

Practice the right skills enough and you will become the entrepreneur you want to be.

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# 4. Aptitude

Many regard talent as a God-given gift. Maybe that's true in some cases, but a lot of entrepreneurs acquired the aptitude for developing a new business from nothing by trial and error, before ever receiving applause for having the talent required for success. The hard work of gaining the aptitude is often called other names.

# 5. Doing something well

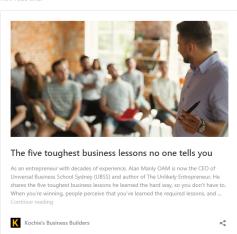
Perhaps the most important factor in success is not only to "just do it", but rather to do something well. To be successful you will need to do whatever it is you intend to do, better than someone lies.

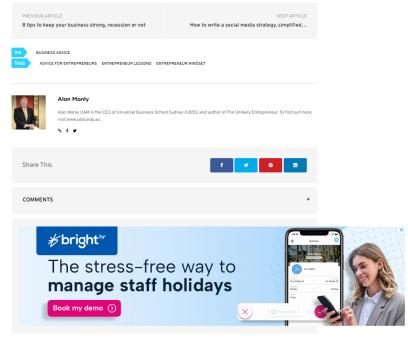
This could mean offering a superior product, providing better customer service, or having a more effective marketing strategy. Whatever the case may be, successful entrepreneurs know how to **stand out from the crowd** and make a lasting impression on their customers.

Ultimately, the skills of an entrepreneur may be innate or acquired through experience and hard work, but what matters most is the ability to put them into practice. Entrepreneurship is a challenging and competitive field, but with these skills and the right mindset, you're giving yourself and your business the best chance of success.

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