

7 Keys to a successful website

By Debbie Fung-A-Wing

There are millions of websites on the internet and more built daily. How in the world can your website compete? First of all, remove that stress from your shoulders. Your website does not exist to compete, it is just another tool to help you market your business and there are many ways to help you make it successful.

Follow the list of the most important items needed to achieve that goal. Most of these seem logical, but you would be surprised to see how many websites lack these elements. Don't let your site be one of those! Use the list to make your site better. You'll be happy you did when you see the site stats go up!

1. Simple design & Easy navigation

A site that takes 10 seconds or more to load will not keep visitors long enough to find out what you have to offer.

- Use a simple, clean design that downloads quickly.
- Add (compressed) images to add interest; people love pictures!
- Make navigating super easy with a simple menu to find information fast.

2. Make it personal & be accessible

Why should your site be personal? It is a fact that people tend to buy from those they trust or know. They want to know

- who you are and what you do
- how you helped others
- what you can do for them.

Be accessible and let people reach out to you so you can build that relationship!

- Add your contact information to the site.
- Use social media to expand your network (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Google+, etc.).
- Reply to emails or comments; show that you care about your community.

3. Call to action

Many times website owners dump information on the pages and let visitors figure out the next step. Always remember, you want to make it easy for people to get what they want by telling them

- what to do next (sign up, buy)
- where to click (buttons, links)
- how to contact you.



4. Regular updates: start blogging!

Websites with blogs get 55% more traffic! Every big blogger will tell you that it is VERY important to post regularly.

- Give your visitors a good reason to come back for more; give them value!
- Show your expertise or tell your story.
- Added benefit: search engines love fresh content.



5. Get subscribers

Allow visitors to sign up for your updates or newsletters. This is why it's important.

- Regular contact helps build trust and a relationship with subscribers.
- Offer RSS subscription for your blog updates. (RSS = Really Simple Syndication).
- With newsletters you can send information to your list that is not on your blog.
- Tell subscribers about your offers or promotions.
- For both options there are free and paid tools to build your mailing list.

6. Measure your results

Whether you are writing for a website or newsletter, you should know if investing your time is worth it.

- Which page or post is visited most?
- How did people get to your website? What were they looking for?
- What is the click or open rate of your newsletter?
- How many people subscribed and unsubscribed?
- Do people take advantage of the offers in your newsletters?

7. Go mobile

Did you know that over 1.2 billion people access the internet from their mobile device? And that tablet owners spend 50% more than PC users? Join the mobile revolution!

- Make your site responsive so it automatically adapts to be viewed (clearly) on any size screen.
- Use a responsive theme (template) or plugin.

Add these 7 elements to your website and you will be unstoppable. ***All the best with your website!***

If you find these tips helpful and want to learn more, go to my blog at www.adfinternational.com or send an email to debbie@adfinternational.com.

Debbie Fung-A-Wing creates appealing websites for micro and small business owners, with a strong focus on functionality of the site. She is the owner of ADF International and is dedicated to helping entrepreneurs promote their business with a customized website or translation and virtual assistant services. She is a certified translator and has extensive executive assistant experience with international corporations. Visit www.adfinternational.com.