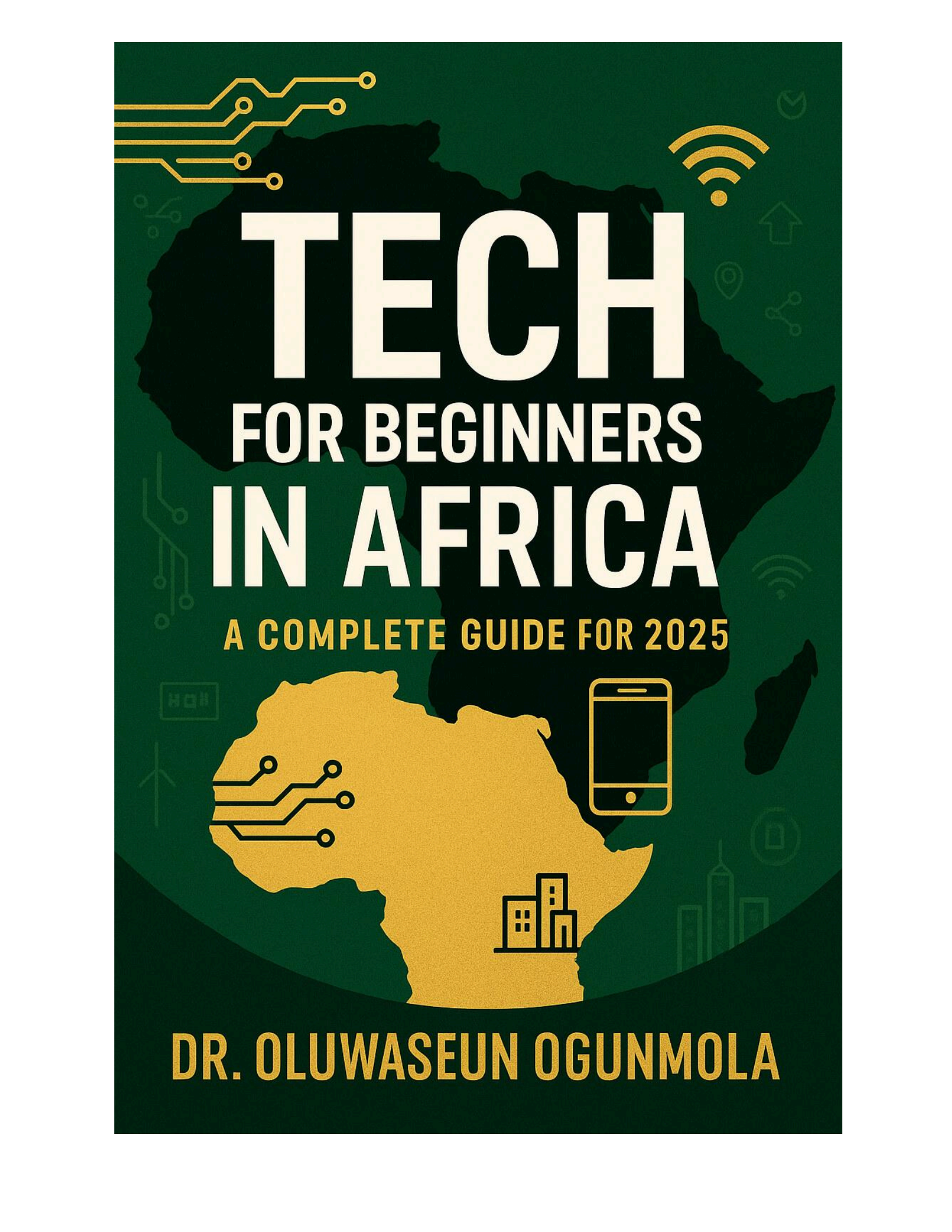




TECH FOR BEGINNERS IN AFRICA

A COMPLETE GUIDE FOR 2025

DR. OLUWASEUN OGUNMOLA

TECH FOR BEGINNERS IN NIGERIA AND AFRICA

A Complete Guide for 2025

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Introduction

In recent years, technology has become one of the most powerful tools for economic advancement, personal growth, and global opportunity. From smartphones and social media to artificial intelligence and remote work, the world is changing rapidly and Africa is not being left behind.

Yet, for many young people across Nigeria and the continent, the tech industry still feels distant, complicated, and intimidating. There is a common belief that you must have a degree in Computer Science, be exceptionally brilliant, or know how to code to participate in the digital economy. This belief is false and it is holding back millions of potential talents.

This book was written to challenge that narrative.

"How to Break into Tech for Beginners in Nigeria and Africa" is a practical, easy-to-understand guide for absolute beginners especially those with no technical background, limited access to resources, and little idea where to start. Whether you are a university student, NYSC member, job seeker, or someone looking to switch careers, this book is for you.

You do not need to be a genius.

You do not need to have a laptop.

You do not need to understand programming languages at least not yet.

What you do need is a smartphone, internet access, a curious mind, and the willingness to learn something new, one step at a time.

Throughout this book, you will find real-life examples, inspiring stories, relatable situations, and actionable steps to help you get started. We will

explore tech career paths with low entry barriers from digital marketing and virtual assistance to design and content creation. You will learn how everyday Africans are building tech careers from cyber cafés, student hostels, small towns, and even their mobile phones.

This is not just a book it is a movement. A movement to show that breaking into tech is not a privilege for a few, but a possibility for anyone willing to start.

Africa's future is digital.

Nigeria's youth are its greatest asset.

And your journey no matter how small matters.

By the time you finish this book, you will not only believe that tech is for you, You will know exactly how to begin.

Welcome to your journey.

Why Should You Listen To Me?

You're probably asking:

“Who be this person wey dey talk say tech easy?”

Or in formal terms: ***“Why should I trust this author to guide me into the tech industry?”***

Fair question.

Let me introduce myself properly not with big grammar, but with real receipts.

My name is [Dr. Oluwaseun Ogunmola](#), and like many of you, I didn't come from a perfect background. I didn't go to an Ivy League school (except FUTA counts as an Ivy League School now though).

I didn't grow up with a silver spoon (we had plastic and aluminium spoons though) or unlimited internet. But I figured out one thing early: **tech can change lives** especially for young Africans. And I've been proving that for over a decade.

Here's why I'm qualified to guide you:

1. I Didn't Just Study Tech I Live It

I hold a B.Tech in Computer Science and I'm currently pursuing an Executive MBA. But more importantly, I've spent over **10 years building software, managing digital products, and leading tech teams** both in Nigeria and globally.

2. I've Built Platforms That Educated Millions

As a leader in the EdTech space, I helped build e-learning platforms used by **millions of Nigerian students** including those in rural areas with limited internet access. I understand how to simplify tech for beginners because I've done it over and over again.

3. I've Been in Your Shoes

I've worked with NYSC members, students, job seekers, and career switchers. I've taught people who have never touched a laptop before. I've mentored people who thought they weren't "smart enough" for tech and today, they're earning in dollars, managing remote roles, or running their own tech businesses.

4. I Don't Just Teach I Do

I'm the Technical Product Manager of a top Nigerian software agency (**Platforms Innovations**) and the Product Manager for a mobile device management solution (**Saveloop**). I also run a consulting firm that helps businesses implement **AI, automation, and digital strategy** and I actively use all the tools I recommend.

5. I'm a Voice for African Tech Talent

I've written **4 books on Artificial Intelligence**, founded **AI in Africa**, and I'm on a mission to make sure Africans are not just tech consumers, but tech creators. I've trained hundreds and I'm still in the trenches, building, teaching, and mentoring daily.

6. I Keep It Real

No fluff. No fake motivational speeches. This book is not about “how to make \$10,000 overnight.”

It’s about **real steps**, **real struggles**, and **real growth**.

I speak your language. I understand NEPA wahala, data scarcity, and the struggle to balance hustle with learning. I wrote this book because **I’ve been there** and I know the way forward.

So, why should you listen to me?

Because I’ve walked this path.

Because I’ve helped others walk it.

And because **I believe you can walk it too**.

If you give me your attention for a few chapters, I promise to give you more than motivation, I will give you **a roadmap**.

You’re more ready than you think.

Let’s go!!!

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Chapter 1: You Don't Need to Be a Tech Genius to Start

Sarah never saw herself as someone who would one day work in tech. She lived in Ibadan and sold second-hand clothes at Bodija Market. Each day was a hustle. She would carry her bale of clothes, display them under a big umbrella, and try to attract customers with the loudest voice and best deals. Her phone was a simple Android model. Her internet data was limited. Most days, there was no electricity, so she had to charge her phone at a shop down the road for fifty naira.

Still, Sarah was curious. One evening, while resting after a long day of sales, she was scrolling through Instagram and noticed that other vendors were getting more engagement. Their photos were clearer. Their captions looked professional. She wondered how they were doing it. After watching one free YouTube video titled *“How to Grow Your Business on Instagram,”* she was hooked. The speaker talked about hashtags, post timing, content design, and simple mobile tools like Canva.

Sarah tried one idea: creating cleaner posts using a free Canva template. She began using better captions and started tagging locations. Gradually, her page looked more professional. One of her customers complimented her and asked if she could help manage their own business page. That was her first client. She charged a small amount, just enough to buy extra data. But from that moment, something shifted.

Six months later, Sarah was working as a full-time social media manager. She had three consistent clients and had stopped selling clothes at the market. Everything she learned was from free online content. She didn't

attend any fancy tech bootcamp. She didn't have a laptop. She didn't write a single line of code. But she broke into tech.

This is the truth many people don't hear often enough. You don't need to be a tech genius to start. You don't need to study Computer Science. You don't need to be the smartest person in the room. And you definitely don't need a brand-new MacBook or a high-end phone. Tech is not just for the elite or the highly educated. It is for people who are curious, consistent, and willing to learn.

Let's be honest. The idea of "tech" can feel intimidating. When people hear the word, they imagine people writing complex code, talking about artificial intelligence, or building robots. But the reality is that tech is broad. It includes many simple and accessible paths. There are jobs and skills that you can start learning today without a technical background.

Many people are already working in tech-adjacent roles without realizing it. If you have ever helped someone design a flyer using a phone app, responded to customer inquiries on WhatsApp for a business, or created a TikTok video for a brand, you are already touching tech. The key is to become more intentional about learning and building those skills.

You don't need a degree. You don't need to speak perfect English. You don't need to be brilliant. You need three things.

First, you need a smartphone. Most of the tools you need to start are available as mobile apps. From design tools like Canva to scheduling tools like Buffer, most of them work perfectly on basic Android devices.

Second, you need access to the internet. It doesn't have to be unlimited. With just a few hundred megabytes, you can watch a short video, download a free guide, or join an online community. Data is not always cheap, but you can be strategic. Download videos offline. Use night plans. Go to locations with free Wi-Fi when possible.

Third, and most importantly, you need curiosity and consistency. If you are curious, you will keep asking questions. If you are consistent, you will keep learning even when it gets hard. These two traits are more powerful than any degree or certificate.

Sarah succeeded because she kept going. She asked questions. She tried things. She failed sometimes, but she learned. Every day, more young Africans are like Sarah. Some are managing social media. Some are helping businesses with customer support. Some are writing content. Some are organizing virtual meetings. None of them started as geniuses. They just started.

This book is for people who are still standing at the edge, wondering if they can jump in. Maybe you are a student, a job seeker, a youth corps member, or someone who feels stuck in a non-tech job. Maybe you are reading this with doubt in your heart. Let this be your permission slip. You are not too late. You are not too old. You are not too behind. You can do this.

Don't let fear stop you. Don't wait for everything to be perfect. Just begin.

Now, let's get practical.

Action Points

- ☐ Watch one short YouTube video on a tech topic that interests you. Start with something simple like “How to Use Canva on Your Phone” or “Introduction to Digital Marketing for Beginners.”
- ☐ Create or clean up your Gmail account. Make it professional using your full name. This is your first digital identity.
- ☐ Join one online community for tech beginners in Africa. You can find groups on Facebook, Telegram, WhatsApp, or LinkedIn. Surround yourself with people who are learning too.
- ☐ Identify what you enjoy doing. Write it down. Are you good at talking to people, organizing things, or writing? Your answer will help you choose your first path in tech.
- ☐ Set aside 30 minutes each day this week to explore and learn. It could be during your commute, before bed, or early in the morning.

These small steps may not feel like much, but over time, they compound. Just like Sarah, you can wake up one day and realize that you have become a tech professional not by magic, but by choice, consistency, and courage.

Let's begin.

Chapter 2: What Exactly Is ‘Tech’?

Ben had always thought that "tech" meant hacking into websites, writing complex code, or fixing broken computers. As far as he was concerned, tech was for the very smart people, the kind that wore glasses, typed fast, and spoke in strange jargon. For someone like him, who didn't even own a laptop and struggled to keep his small phone charged due to power outages, tech felt like a different world altogether.

That changed one afternoon.

While visiting a cousin in Lagos, Ben saw a young woman working from the corner of her one-room apartment. She wasn't typing code. She was designing a simple website using a drag-and-drop app on her phone. Ben watched her build a full page for a local food vendor complete with photos, menus, and contact details. She explained that she used free tools like Canva and Wix, and that she charged small business owners for her work. She had two jobs lined up that week alone.

Ben was shocked. She didn't have a tech degree. She didn't even have a laptop. But she was making real income, all from her phone. In that moment, his understanding of tech began to shift. He realized that tech was not just about software engineering or cybersecurity. Tech was much broader and more accessible than he had ever imagined.

Understanding Tech Beyond the Stereotypes

For many beginners, the word "tech" sounds intimidating. It conjures images of advanced mathematics, expensive gadgets, and complex systems. But here is the truth: technology is not one narrow path. It is a

wide highway with many lanes and not all of them require coding, engineering, or advanced degrees.

In simple terms, “tech” refers to the use of tools, systems, or platforms usually digital to solve problems, create solutions, or deliver services. It includes everything from building software to managing social media accounts, from creating digital content to offering customer support through email or chat.

If you use your phone to post business flyers on Instagram, respond to clients on WhatsApp, or write blog articles for a website you are already engaging with tech. You just haven’t been calling it that.

The digital world is not reserved for software developers or IT professionals. It welcomes content creators, marketers, designers, project coordinators, and virtual assistants. Tech is no longer a niche; it is part of everyday life.

Beginner-Friendly Tech Fields You Can Explore

Let’s explore a few tech roles that don’t require you to be a programmer or an expert in computers. These are fields you can break into using just your smartphone, access to the internet, and a willingness to learn.

1. Graphic Design

You don’t need to be a trained artist to become a digital designer. With tools like **Canva**, you can design flyers, logos, Instagram posts, and more all from your phone. Small businesses, churches, NGOs, and startups in Africa are constantly looking for people to help with basic design work. If

you can learn to make clean, attractive designs, you can begin offering freelance design services.

2. Digital Marketing

Digital marketing involves promoting products or services online. It includes things like managing social media pages, creating content for Facebook or Instagram, running ads, and analyzing what kind of posts perform best. Many businesses want to grow online but don't know how. That's where you come in. Platforms like **Google Digital Skills for Africa** offer free beginner courses.

3. Content Writing

If you enjoy writing, content creation may be your starting point. Blogs, websites, e-commerce stores, and digital magazines all need writers. You can write product descriptions, articles, email newsletters, or social media captions. As long as you can write clearly and with purpose, there is a place for you in tech.

4. Customer Service and Support

Many companies hire remote agents to reply to emails, chat with customers, or solve problems. You don't need to write code to help customers track an order, reset a password, or answer common questions. With good communication skills, basic tech literacy, and training, you can begin in this field.

5. Social Media Management

Social media is a key part of tech today. Businesses need people who can schedule posts, reply to followers, create reels or short videos, and monitor performance. You don't need a degree to manage social media, you just need to understand how people engage online and learn to use tools like **Meta Business Suite**, **Later**, or **Buffer**.

6. Virtual Assistance

Virtual assistants help business owners and entrepreneurs with tasks like email management, calendar scheduling, booking appointments, or updating simple spreadsheets. Many Nigerians already do these things for family or church without calling it "tech." With a few hours of training, you can do the same thing professionally.

Each of these roles represents a doorway into the tech industry. They are flexible, practical, and in high demand across Africa and beyond. And the best part? Most of them can be done with just your phone.

You May Already Be Doing Tech Without Realizing It

Let's reflect for a moment.

- Have you helped someone write a business caption for Instagram?
- Have you used WhatsApp to attend an online class or respond to customers?
- Have you designed a church or event flyer using your phone?

- Have you helped a family member set up an email or online payment?

If you said yes to any of these, you have already touched the edges of tech. The difference now is that you can begin to do these things intentionally with learning, strategy, and a plan to grow into a full-time digital professional.

Conclusion: Tech Is Bigger Than You Think

Tech is not just about building apps or understanding machine learning. It's about solving real problems with digital tools. That might mean helping a food vendor reach more customers through Facebook ads. Or helping a school manage their parent communication via email. Or helping a doctor schedule virtual consultations.

There is a space in tech for every skill set whether you're a good communicator, an organizer, a writer, or even someone who simply loves helping people.

You don't have to change who you are. You just need to understand that the tech industry is broad and growing. And it needs people like you.

Action Points

Take a few minutes to reflect and take action:

- ☐ **List three digital tools or apps you used today** (e.g., WhatsApp, Google, YouTube).
- ☐ **Search on YouTube:** “What does a virtual assistant do?”
- ☐ **Pick one role that interests you** (design, marketing, writing, support, etc.)
- ☐ **Watch one beginner video about that role**
- ☐ **Write down one way you already use tech in your daily life**

Remember: You don't have to be a tech expert to start.

You just have to be willing to learn. Let this chapter be the start of your discovery.

You are not behind. You are right on time. Let's keep going.

Chapter 3: Easy Tech Career Paths You Can Start Without Coding

Ifeoma's Story

Ifeoma was a school teacher in Enugu, earning ₦35,000 per month. Her salary barely lasted two weeks, and she often had to borrow to make it to the end of the month. She didn't have a laptop, had no technical background, and never imagined she could work in tech.

One day, a friend sent her a link to a free online course on virtual assistance. Skeptical but curious, she used her phone to start watching the lessons in the evenings. Within a few months, she understood how to manage emails, schedule meetings, create reports, and use productivity tools like Google Calendar and Trello.

Ifeoma started applying for remote jobs on freelancing websites. After a few rejections, she finally landed her first client an entrepreneur in the United Kingdom. Today, she earns over ₦250,000 monthly from the comfort of her home. She didn't write a single line of code. She simply learned how to provide value using basic digital tools and consistent effort.

Tech Is Not Only About Coding

There's a common misconception that "tech" only means programming, hacking, or building software. This belief has discouraged many talented people from exploring opportunities in the digital space.

The truth is, the tech industry is broad. Coding is only one of many paths.

Some of the most in-demand roles today require little to no coding experience. What they require instead are digital literacy, good

communication, organization, creativity, and above all, a willingness to learn.

In fact, you may already be interacting with tech skills every day without realizing it. If you've ever managed a WhatsApp business account, created an Instagram flyer, replied to customer messages online, or posted content for a small brand, you've already used some of the skills tech employers look for.

Beginner-Friendly Tech Roles (That Don't Require Coding)

Here are some career paths you can begin exploring today, even if you don't have a technical degree or background in computing:

1. Virtual Assistant

Virtual Assistants (VAs) help businesses and entrepreneurs with tasks such as answering emails, managing calendars, booking appointments, preparing reports, and organizing files. You can work remotely, using only your smartphone and free tools like Gmail, Trello, and Zoom.

2. Digital Marketing

Digital Marketers promote products and services online using platforms like Google, Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn. They run ads, manage campaigns, analyze performance, and help brands grow their audience. Many digital marketers start by learning how to use social media effectively.

3. Social Media Manager

If you know how to create engaging posts, schedule content, and respond to comments or DMs, you can manage social media pages for brands and entrepreneurs. You'll need to learn tools like Meta Business Suite, Canva, and scheduling apps like Buffer or Later.

4. Product Design (UI/UX)

Product Designers focus on how apps and websites look and feel. You don't need to code just learn how to use design tools like Figma to create layouts and user journeys. UI/UX Designers make sure apps are easy to use and visually appealing.

5. Customer Support

Many startups and online businesses need people to respond to customer inquiries via email, chat, or social media. Tools like Zendesk, Intercom, and Crisp are commonly used. If you're patient and communicate well, this could be a great fit.

6. Copywriting & Content Creation

If you enjoy writing, you can create content for websites, blogs, emails, and social media. Businesses need clear and persuasive writing to reach their audiences. Copywriting is especially valuable for sales pages, ads, and email marketing.

7. Prompt Engineering

With the rise of AI tools like ChatGPT, a new field has emerged: Prompt Engineering. This means learning how to ask the right questions or give the right instructions to AI tools in order to generate useful outputs. It requires creativity and clarity not coding.

Real-Life Applications in Nigeria and Africa

These roles are not just theory. In Lagos, someone is managing Instagram pages for fashion brands. In Nairobi, someone is writing blog posts for an international health website. In Accra, someone is designing flyers for local events using only Canva on their phone. And across the continent, many are helping clients remotely right from their homes.

You don't need to be in Silicon Valley. You don't need expensive software or a fast laptop. With just a smartphone, internet access, and consistency, you can begin today.

Conclusion: Find Your Fit, Start Where You Are

Tech is not just about writing code. It's about solving problems and creating value using digital tools. Whether you enjoy writing, designing, helping people, organizing tasks, or just figuring things out there's a role in tech for you.

Start small. Choose a path that interests you. Use free resources. Practice. With time, what looks like "tech magic" today will become second nature.

These are not just side hustles. They are legitimate careers. Many Nigerians are building full-time income and fulfilling lives through these paths.

Action Points

- ☐ Google “What does a Virtual Assistant do?” and read one article
- ☐ Watch one YouTube video about Digital Marketing or Social Media Management
- ☐ Follow a Nigerian UI/UX designer on LinkedIn or Instagram
- ☐ Create a free Canva account and design a simple Instagram post
- ☐ Join a beginner-friendly tech group on Telegram or WhatsApp

Chapter 4: How to Learn Tech for Free or Very Cheap

Chuka was a recent university graduate living in Aba, Nigeria. He had just completed his NYSC and was struggling to find a job. Like many others, he faced a daily challenge: he couldn't afford consistent internet data. During the day, browsing was simply too expensive. But Chuka was determined.

He discovered that some network providers offered cheaper data plans late at night. So, each night around 1:00 a.m., he would download YouTube videos on digital marketing using his low-end smartphone. He saved them to watch later during the day, offline.

He didn't have a laptop. He didn't take any expensive courses. But Chuka watched, practiced, and repeated. After four months, he built enough skill to volunteer as a digital marketer for his cousin's small business. Two months later, he landed his first freelance job managing Facebook ads for a local fashion brand. That job paid more than he had earned during his service year.

Chuka's story proves something important: learning tech doesn't have to cost a lot of money. What you need most is consistency, a smartphone, and the drive to keep going, even when your resources are limited.

You Can Start Right Where You Are

Many people believe that entering the tech world requires an expensive laptop, a degree from a top university, or deep knowledge of coding. That is simply not true.

In today's world, access to learning has been democratized. You don't have to wait for permission. You don't need to attend a four-year program. And you don't need to break the bank.

What you do need is:

- A smartphone (yes, the same one you use to scroll social media)
- Internet access (even if it's just a night plan)
- The curiosity to explore and the consistency to follow through

If you have these three things, you are ready to start learning tech today.

Free and Low-Cost Tech Learning Platforms

Here are some trusted platforms where you can begin your tech journey without paying a kobo:

- **YouTube**

One of the most powerful free learning platforms. You can learn graphic design, social media management, Excel, customer service, even how to build a website all by searching the right keywords. For example, search “Digital Marketing for Beginners” or “How to Use Canva”.

- **Coursera (Audit Mode)**

Offers free access to top courses from institutions like Google, IBM,

and Stanford. Simply choose the “Audit” option when enrolling, and you won’t pay anything. Visit www.coursera.org.

- **Google Digital Skills for Africa**

A free initiative by Google offering certified courses in Digital Marketing, Business Strategy, and Productivity Tools. Perfect for beginners. Start at learndigital.withgoogle.com/digitalskills.

- **Ingressive for Good (I4G)**

A non-profit focused on increasing access to tech in Africa. They offer scholarships, mentorship, and partnerships with learning platforms. Visit www.ingressive.org.

- **AltSchool Africa**

Beginner-friendly with a focus on real-world skills. They offer scholarships and structured programs. Great for people seeking a more guided learning path. See www.altschoolafrica.com.

- **Zuri Team**

Offers practical tech training coding, design, and more. Many programs are free or highly subsidized. Good for hands-on learners. Visit zuri.team.

Learning with Just Your Smartphone

Don’t have a laptop yet? No problem. You can still make progress with the device in your hand. Here’s how:

- **Use Night Plans**

Download educational videos during cheap night-time data hours (e.g., 11pm–5am). Most telecom providers in Nigeria offer these plans.

- **Install Learning Apps**

Use apps like YouTube Go (to download videos), Coursera, Google Classroom, and Notion (for organizing notes).

- **Take Notes and Screenshots**

Screenshots help you remember key points from videos or courses. Create a folder in your gallery called “Tech Learning.”

- **Join Communities**

Look for WhatsApp or Telegram groups where other learners share opportunities, ask questions, and stay accountable.

- **Practice What You Learn**

If you watch a tutorial on Canva, try to recreate what you saw. If you learn about writing, draft something. Action deepens learning.

Use What You Have

The most powerful lesson from Chuka’s story and many others like his is this:

Money is not the real problem. Mindset is.

If you’re willing to learn, tech will meet you where you are. Start with free resources. Maximize your phone. Join communities. And take small steps every day.

You don’t need the best laptop, expensive classes, or a tech degree. You need determination, discipline, and the courage to begin.

Action Points

Here are five simple things you can do this week to start your tech learning journey:

- ☐ Search for “Digital Marketing Basics” on YouTube and watch one video
- ☐ Visit <https://learndigital.withgoogle.com/digitalskills> and enroll in a course
- ☐ Join a WhatsApp or Telegram group focused on tech learning
- ☐ Download Coursera or YouTube Go on your smartphone
- ☐ Create a dedicated folder on your phone named “Tech Learning”

Start where you are. Use what you have. Stay consistent. The world of tech is open to you.

Chapter 5: How to Choose a Tech Path That Fits You

Daniel had always heard that the future belonged to those who could code. So, naturally, he started with programming. He watched tutorials, installed software, and tried to build simple projects. But each attempt left him frustrated. The terms were confusing. The logic didn't click. He felt like he was forcing himself into something that didn't feel natural.

He was close to giving up until one day, while browsing online, he discovered an article on content writing. Curious, he read more. It felt different easy to understand, exciting, even enjoyable. He had always loved explaining ideas and telling stories. So he decided to try it.

Within a few months, Daniel had completed a free writing course, built a portfolio, and started offering freelance writing services. He landed his first paid job helping a local business write blog posts. Today, Daniel earns consistently as a content writer. He didn't need to learn to code. He just needed to find the tech path that matched his strengths.

This is the story for many people who begin their tech journey. They start with what's popular often coding and assume it's the only way. But tech is not one-size-fits-all. There are multiple paths into tech, and your journey should align with who you are.

Tech Is Not One-Size-Fits-All

One of the biggest misconceptions is that “tech” means programming or computer science. While those are important parts of the industry, they are not the only paths available.

Tech is a broad field with room for people who are writers, organizers, problem-solvers, communicators, designers, teachers, and more. You don’t need to change who you are to fit into tech. Instead, find a space in tech that fits *you*.

When you choose a path that fits your strengths, learning becomes easier, and growth feels more natural. You are more likely to stay motivated, finish what you start, and succeed long-term.

What Kind of Tech Career Fits You?

Use the questions below to reflect on your interests. Your answers will help you find a tech career that fits you better than just copying what others are doing.

Ask Yourself:

- **Do you enjoy writing and storytelling?**
⇒ Explore **Content Writing** or **Copywriting**
- **Are you good with visuals or enjoy designing things?**
⇒ Try **UI/UX Design** or **Graphic Design**
- **Do you enjoy talking to and helping people?**
⇒ Consider **Customer Support** or **Virtual Assistance**

- **Are you curious about how things work and enjoy solving problems?**
 - ⇒ Look into **Product Management** or **Prompt Engineering**
- **Do you enjoy social media and connecting with people online?**
 - ⇒ Check out **Social Media Management** or **Digital Marketing**

You don't need to be an expert yet. Just pick the options that feel most like *you*.

Tip: Circle two or three options and research them this week. The goal is to explore, not to decide everything today.

There's a Place for You in Tech

Whether you're outgoing or quiet, analytical or creative, detail-oriented or big-picture focused there's a role for you in tech. Don't let pressure or trends force you into a role that doesn't match your personality.

Some people thrive in front of a screen writing code. Others shine by writing compelling words, solving customer problems, or creating beautiful designs.

And it's okay if the first thing you try doesn't work. Many successful tech professionals started by exploring several paths before they found the right fit.

Summary: Choose What Fits You

You don't have to be like everyone else.

You don't need to follow a popular path.

You just need to follow a path that feels natural to you.

Starting with something that matches your interests and abilities gives you momentum. It builds your confidence and increases your chances of success.

Your path might be writing.

Or design.

Or helping people online.

Whatever it is, honor it.

Action Points

- ☐ Write down **three things** you enjoy doing regularly (even outside tech)
- ☐ Take a free online quiz like "What Tech Career Is Right for Me?"
- ☐ Watch **one YouTube video each** on writing, design, and digital marketing
- ☐ Reach out to someone in tech (on LinkedIn or WhatsApp) and ask how they started
- ☐ Pick **one tech path** and explore it deeper for the next 7 days

Chapter 6 : No Laptop? No Problem

Aminat's Journey

Aminat lived in a quiet neighborhood on the outskirts of Ilorin. She had always dreamed of working in tech, but there was one problem: **she didn't own a laptop.**

Her only access to a computer was through her elder brother, who allowed her to use his laptop for just a few hours every Sunday. Instead of complaining, Aminat planned ahead. She downloaded free Microsoft Excel tutorials during the week using her smartphone and spent her Sunday sessions practicing what she had learned.

Over the course of a few months, Aminat completed a full Excel course. She learned how to create spreadsheets, manage data, and even automate tasks using simple formulas. Not long after, she landed a remote part-time job as a data entry officer. Her consistency paid off and it all started with a borrowed laptop and a smartphone.

Aminat's story is proof that **limited access to gadgets doesn't mean limited access to opportunity.**

2. Core Message: Start With What You Have

One of the most common myths in tech is that you must own the latest gadgets to get started. That's not true. Across Nigeria and Africa, many people are **learning tech skills and building careers using just their phones**, borrowed laptops, or shared computers in cyber cafés.

If you are reading this book on your phone, **you already have enough to begin**. You don't need to buy a laptop today or wait until everything is perfect. What matters most is:

- Your **willingness to learn**
- Your **consistency**
- And your **creativity in using available resources**

3. Practical Strategies to Learn Tech Without a Laptop

Use Phone-Friendly Learning Platforms

Many global platforms are fully optimized for mobile devices. Here are some you can start with today:

- **YouTube** – Thousands of tutorials on everything from Excel to design.
- **Coursera** – Offers free courses in audit mode. Download the app and learn on the go.
- **Google Digital Skills for Africa** – Free beginner-friendly courses tailored to African learners.
- **Khan Academy** – Great for basics like computer science, math, and data.
- **Canva** – Learn design, social media content creation, and branding using your phone.

Affordable Accessories to Improve Learning

With a few accessories, your smartphone can become a mini workstation:

- **Bluetooth keyboard** – Makes typing easier, especially for writing and content work.
- **OTG (On-The-Go) cable** – Connect USB drives, mice, or keyboards to your phone.
- **Stylus pen** – Great for digital design or UI/UX learning.

These accessories are often available for less than ₦5,000 on local online stores.

Use Cyber Cafés and Community Hubs

Many towns and cities across Nigeria have cyber cafés or local ICT centers. For a small hourly fee, you can access a desktop computer and a stable internet connection.

Pro tips:

- Download tutorial videos during the week, then practice at the café.
- Use cafés for tasks that are harder to complete on your phone e.g., typing documents, uploading portfolios, or completing assignments.

Look out for:

- Public libraries
- Churches with tech hubs
- Tech-focused NGOs offering free access

Install and Use Smart Learning Apps

Here are a few mobile apps that can support your journey:

- **Notion** – For organizing your notes, tasks, and learning plans.
- **YouTube Go** – Download and watch tutorials offline to save data.
- **Coursera / edX / LinkedIn Learning** – Access quality courses from global institutions.
- **Canva** – Practice graphic design right on your mobile device.

Plan and Maximize Internet Use

Many learners in Nigeria use night plans and weekend data bundles to reduce cost. Plan your learning around affordable access:

- Use **MTN's 11 pm – 6 am night plan** to download videos.
- Save tutorials offline and study them throughout the week.
- Create a weekly learning schedule to stay focused.

4. Where to Find Affordable Devices in Nigeria

If you're planning to get a device, here are trusted ways to find one that fits your budget:

- **Jiji.ng** – Search for fairly used laptops from verified sellers.
- **Slot.ng** – Offers both new and refurbished devices with warranty.
- **Facebook Marketplace** – Great for finding local sellers near you.

Also explore:

- **Ingressive for Good (I4G)** – Sometimes offers laptop support and learning scholarships.
- **Churches or NGOs** – Some community programs provide laptops to young learners.
- **Buy Now, Pay Later Options** – Platforms like **EasyBuy**, **Carbon Zero**, or **Aella Credit** let you pay for devices in installments.

Make sure to compare prices, check the device physically (if possible), and buy from reputable sellers.

Conclusion: Start With What's In Your Hand

You don't need a laptop today to start your tech journey.

You don't need expensive equipment or a perfect setup.

What you need is the mindset to make the most of what you already have.

Many people just like Aminat began their journey with only a smartphone and a strong desire to learn. If she could do it, **so can you**.

The goal isn't to wait for perfect conditions, it's to start **now**, and improve as you go.

Action Points

- ☐ **Download one tech learning app** like Coursera, Skillshare, or YouTube Go
- ☐ **Locate a cyber café** or learning hub near you and find out their opening hours and fees
- ☐ **Search for used or refurbished laptops** on Jiji.ng or Facebook Marketplace
- ☐ **Complete one small project on your phone**, like designing a flyer using Canva
- ☐ **Ask someone in your circle** if you can borrow their laptop for 1–2 hours each week

Say This Out Loud:

“Even without a laptop, I can start learning tech today.”

And the best time to start?

Now!!!

Chapter 7: How to Stay Focused When You Feel Like Giving Up

Meet Folake

Folake was one of five friends who decided to start learning tech together. They were all excited. They downloaded online courses, joined free Telegram groups, and even shared learning tips. For the first few weeks, everyone showed up consistently. But by the third month, things started to change.

One friend got busy with school. Another said the lessons were too hard. The rest slowly stopped showing up. Soon, Folake was learning alone.

She felt discouraged at times. She doubted herself. But she stayed consistent. She didn't rush. She chose one simple course and committed to studying it every Saturday afternoon, even if it was just one video. Step by step, she completed that course. Then she did another.

Today, Folake works remotely with a digital agency, handling basic tasks like uploading blog posts, creating social media graphics, and organizing online folders. She's not a developer. She's not a tech "genius." But she stayed the course.

Her friends often ask her now: "How did you do it?"

Her answer is simple: "I didn't stop."

How About You?

Feeling tired, stuck, or unmotivated is part of the journey. You're not alone. Everyone who has ever succeeded in tech or anything meaningful has had moments when they wanted to quit.

- Maybe you feel like you're not learning fast enough.
- Maybe others around you seem to be doing more.
- Maybe the distractions are too many.

That's normal.

But here's the truth:

- **Progress doesn't always feel fast.**
- **Success doesn't happen overnight.**
- **The only real failure is stopping completely.**

Even the best tech professionals once doubted themselves. What made the difference was that they didn't stop.

How to Build a Simple Weekly Learning Habit

You don't need to study every day to succeed. What you need is **consistency** not intensity.

Here's how to build a learning habit, even if you're busy:

- **Pick a specific time** each week that works for you. It could be Sunday evening or Thursday morning. Block it in your calendar.

- **Use reminders.** Set a weekly alarm or use a free app like Google Calendar to stay on track.
- **Focus on one thing at a time.** Don't jump from course to course. Complete one before starting another.
- **Track your progress.** Tick off each lesson you complete. Celebrate every small win.

Small steps, repeated weekly, lead to big results.

Dealing with Slow Progress and Comparison

It's easy to look at others and feel like you're behind. But here's the truth:

- Everyone is running a different race.
- Some people have more time.
- Some started earlier.
- Some have better tools or faster internet.

But none of that stops you from succeeding. Focus on **your** journey.

Try these mindset shifts:

- **"I'm building something that takes time."**
- **"My journey is mine, not a race."**
- **"Consistency beats speed."**

You don't have to rush. You just have to keep moving forward.

5. Tips for Staying Motivated

Here are practical strategies that have worked for other beginners in Nigeria and across Africa:

- **Follow local tech learners.** Seeing others like you succeed makes the goal feel real. Look for African tech creators on LinkedIn or Instagram.
- **Join an accountability group.** WhatsApp and Telegram have many beginner tech communities. Check for ones focused on digital skills, not just coding.
- **Celebrate every milestone.** Finished one lesson? Reward yourself. Watched 5 videos this week? Tell someone.
- **Keep a “tech journal.”** Write what you learned each week, how you felt, and what you want to learn next.
- **Remember your “why.”** Ask yourself: “Why did I start?” Write it down and read it every week.

Motivation fades sometimes. That’s why systems and support matter.

Conclusion

You don’t need to feel strong every day. You just need to keep showing up.

Many people feel like quitting and some do. But those who succeed are not the smartest. They are not the fastest. They are the ones who kept going when it got hard.

Folake kept going. So can you.

You don’t need to do everything at once. Just take one step. This week. Then next week. That’s how success is built.

Action Points

- ☐ Choose one fixed time this week to study tech
- ☐ Write down why you want to break into tech
- ☐ Follow one motivational African tech voice on LinkedIn or Instagram
- ☐ Share your progress with a friend or in a tech learning group
- ☐ Reward yourself after completing one task or module

Final Thought:

It's okay to go slow.

What matters is **not giving up**.

You've already started. Keep going.

Your future self will thank you.

Chapter 8: How to Make Your First Money with Tech

Yusuf's Story: Start Small, Earn Fast

Yusuf is a young man living in Ilorin. He had no laptop. No fancy office. No degree in design. But he had one thing; curiosity.

While scrolling through YouTube one day, he discovered Canva, a free design tool that works on phones. Out of curiosity, he watched a few tutorials and decided to practice by creating sample flyers.

His first clients? A local food vendor who needed a weekly menu, and his church, which needed a poster for an upcoming youth event. Yusuf charged ₦5,000 for the food vendor flyer and ₦10,000 for the church flyer. Word began to spread. Within his first month, Yusuf earned ₦40,000 all from designs he created on his phone.

Yusuf's journey shows that you don't need to wait until everything is perfect. You can begin right now with what you know, where you are, and who you know.

You Can Earn While You Learn

You do not need to be an expert to start earning in tech.

You do not need a laptop or certificate.

You just need a skill, a phone, and the courage to offer what you've learned to people who need it.

In today's digital world, many small businesses, churches, schools, and individuals need help with things like:

- Flyer design
- Social media content
- Website setup
- Basic writing or editing
- Video editing

If you can offer even a simple version of any of these, you can begin earning money.

How to Get Small Jobs While You're Still Learning

Here's where you start:

1. Offer help to people around you:

- Ask your family, friends, or people at your mosque or church if they need any digital help.
- Design a birthday flyer, a product advert, or a service announcement.

2. Look for small businesses:

- Find shops near you that don't yet have social media pages. Offer to create one.
- Offer to create digital menus, price lists, or posters.

3. Share what you're learning:

- Post your sample work on WhatsApp Status, Facebook, or Instagram.
- Say something simple like: "Learning Canva. Let me help you design a flyer."
- People respond to effort and honesty.

How to Collect Payment Safely

Earning is exciting, but protect yourself. Here's how:

1. Agree on a clear price upfront:

- Be clear. Is the design ~~N~~5,000 or ~~N~~7,000? Is payment before or after delivery?
- Use simple terms like: "I charge ~~N~~3,000 per flyer. You can pay by transfer."

2. Use trusted mobile platforms:

- Opay, PalmPay, Moniepoint, or bank transfers work well and are trackable.

3. Keep simple records:

- Use a notes app or Google Sheets to track who has paid and what you've delivered.
- Save screenshots of payment confirmations.

4. When unsure, do a sample first:

- Design a low-resolution draft. Only send the full version after you get paid.
- This builds trust and reduces risk.

Tools to Organize Your Work and Show Your Skills

You don't need many tools. Just the right ones. These will help you start like a pro:

Canva

- For designing flyers, social posts, business cards
- Works perfectly on smartphones

Google Drive

- Save your designs and generate sharable links for clients
- Create folders for each client or project

Notion

- Use to track jobs, deadlines, and payments
- Write down your weekly tasks and progress

WhatsApp/Telegram

- For quick feedback, client chats, and sharing updates
- Make sure your profile looks professional

Final Words: You Don't Need to Wait

Making your first money with tech is not about being perfect. It's about being useful.

Start with what you know. Offer it to someone you know. Grow from there.

Your first client may be your church. Your second, a friend's mum who owns a small salon.

These small wins build confidence. They teach you how to work with clients. They help you believe, "I can do this."

Your Goal:

Say to yourself:

"I don't have to wait to be perfect. I can start making money now with what I already know."

The best time to start? Today. The best tool to start with? What's in your hand? Keep showing up. You're ready.

Action Points

- ☐ Create one sample flyer, post, or design using Canva
- ☐ Share it on your WhatsApp status or send it to three people you know
- ☐ Ask someone in your circle if they need a small digital service
- ☐ Set up a Google Drive or Notion page to organize your work
- ☐ Choose how you'll receive payment and write it down

Chapter 9: How to Find a Mentor and Join Tech Communities

Jennifer had just finished secondary school in Benin City. She didn't have a laptop, and most of her tech knowledge came from watching videos on her older brother's smartphone. One day, she stumbled on a Telegram group titled "Tech for Beginners Nigeria." Curious, she joined.

At first, she just observed. But over time, she started asking questions. She posted about the free YouTube courses she was taking and even shared her Canva designs for feedback. One of the group mentors noticed her. He reached out privately and said, "I like your consistency. We have a remote internship slot at my startup. Would you like to apply?"

She said yes.

That one opportunity changed everything. Jennifer interned from her phone. She learned to use tools like Trello and Slack. Today, she's mentoring new members in that same group and working part-time with a digital marketing agency.

You don't need big connections to get started. You just need to show up.

Why Mentorship and Community Matter

Breaking into tech can feel lonely. Especially if no one around you understands what you're trying to do. That's why community is not optional. It's essential.

Tech communities give you:

- Support on difficult days
- Guidance when you're stuck
- Motivation from people on similar journeys
- Real opportunities you might never find on your own

Mentors don't always come through formal programs. Many are found in WhatsApp groups, comment sections, webinars, or simply from asking questions publicly. You don't need to be "ready" to join a tech group. You just need to be willing to learn and participate.

How to Find Tech Communities in Nigeria and Africa

There are thousands of online spaces where Africans are learning and growing in tech. Many are free. Here are some ways to find them:

Telegram and WhatsApp

- Search on Twitter or Google: "Tech beginner Telegram groups Nigeria"
- Ask friends already in tech groups for invite links
- Follow community founders and look out for shared group links in their bios or posts

Slack and Online Programs

- Join beginner-friendly Slack communities like **ForLoop Africa**, **Zuri**, or **AltSchool Africa**

- Apply for structured learning communities like:
 - **Ingressive for Good** (ingressive.org)
 - **She Code Africa** (for women)
 - **Tech4Dev**
 - **AltSchool Africa**

LinkedIn and Twitter (X)

- Follow hashtags like **#TechInNigeria**, **#SheCodeAfrica**, **#100DaysOfCode**, or **#ZuriTeam**
- Look for community handles like **@ingressive4good**, **@AltSchoolAfrica**, **@Tech4Dev**, or **@ForloopAfrica**
- Engage with content. Don't just scroll. Like, comment, share your learning. That's how people notice you.

Where to Meet Mentors and Like-Minded Learners

Mentors can be senior professionals, someone two steps ahead of you, or even peers. Here's where to meet them:

1. Twitter (X)

- Follow tech creators in Africa
- Comment regularly on posts that resonate with you
- Join Twitter Spaces on tech topics

2. LinkedIn

- Search for "UI/UX Designer in Nigeria" or "Data Analyst Africa"
- Follow people whose stories or work inspire you

3. Telegram & WhatsApp Groups

- Don't just join. Participate. Ask questions. Help others
- Avoid groups that only share job links or spam. Look for learning-focused ones

4. Online Events and Webinars

- Many African tech orgs host regular virtual events
- You can attend from your phone and meet mentors in breakout rooms or chatboxes

What to Say When Reaching Out (Sample Messages)

Don't overthink it. Keep it respectful and honest.

Here are examples:

Hi [Name], I admire your journey in tech. I'm just starting out and would love to learn from your experience. Would you mind sharing one piece of advice for someone new?

Hello [Name], I saw your post on [platform]. I'm learning tech and found it helpful. I'd like to ask how you got started in [specific field, e.g., UI/UX or Data].

Tips:

- Be brief
- Be clear about your interest
- Don't ask for mentorship in the first message

- Start with a compliment or shared interest
- Always say thank you

Conclusion: You Don't Need to Walk Alone

Jennifer's story is real. So are thousands of others who found help, friends, and opportunities just by joining the right spaces.

You don't need to be perfect. You don't need a laptop. You don't need connections. You just need to take one small step and keep showing up.

In tech, the journey is easier when you don't walk alone.

Action Points

- ☐ Join one Telegram or WhatsApp tech group
- ☐ Follow 3 African tech mentors on LinkedIn or Twitter
- ☐ Comment on at least one tech-related post
- ☐ Send one polite message to someone in tech you admire
- ☐ Write down what kind of mentor or tech community you hope to find

Say it with confidence:

"I now know where to find support and how to connect with people who can help me grow in tech."

Chapter 10: How to Set Up Your LinkedIn Profile for Tech Job Opportunities

It is time to Meet Uzo

Uzo was just a regular guy from Enugu, trying to teach himself UI/UX design using YouTube and free online courses. One day, he completed a basic landing page project and decided to share it on LinkedIn. He didn't overthink it. Just a short post:

"This is my first UI design. I used Figma to recreate a landing page I found online. I'm still learning, but I'm proud of this step."

A week later, he got a message from someone who saw his post.

"Hi Uzo, I like what you're doing. Would you be interested in designing a simple flyer for a product launch we're planning?"

Uzo said yes. That one flyer job earned him ₦12,000. It wasn't much, but it changed everything. It showed him that visibility brings opportunities. That post marked the beginning of his freelance journey in tech all from one LinkedIn update.

LinkedIn is more than a job board or digital CV. It's your *tech identity online*. In Africa, where tech communities are growing fast, LinkedIn is where recruiters, founders, mentors, and collaborators go to find new talent including beginners.

You don't need to be perfect before you show up.

You don't need a certification or degree to begin.

You just need to be visible, consistent, and authentic.

Many Nigerians have gotten internships, remote gigs, scholarships, and mentorships by simply sharing their learning journey on LinkedIn. That can be your story too.

What to Write in Your LinkedIn Bio, Headline, and “About” Section

Here’s how to structure your LinkedIn profile, even if you’re just starting.

Headline

This is the first thing people see. Keep it short, clear, and specific.

Example:

***Aspiring Frontend Developer | Learning HTML, CSS & JavaScript |
Open to Internships & Collaboration***

Other ideas:

- *Data Enthusiast | Python Learner | Building Small Projects Weekly*
- *Tech Newbie | Exploring Product Design | Learning Figma & UI Basics*

About Section

This is your short story. Think of it as your “elevator pitch.”

Tips:

- Say what you’re learning
- Mention your goals
- Be honest, not perfect

- Keep it friendly and confident

Example:

I'm a self-taught web developer based in Lagos. I'm currently learning frontend development using freeCodeCamp and YouTube. I enjoy building simple websites and solving real-life problems with code. I'm looking to grow through internships, freelance projects, and mentorship.

Simple Tips to Look Professional (Even as a Beginner)

You don't need fancy tools or a professional photographer. Here's how to look credible:

- **Profile Photo:** Use a clear headshot with good lighting. No sunglasses, no blurry images.
- **Cover Banner:** Use Canva to create a simple banner (e.g., "Tech Learner | Building Daily | #TechInAfrica")
- **Spelling:** Double-check for errors. Keep your grammar clean and simple.
- **Portfolio:** Share a link to your Google Drive, Notion page, or GitHub with samples of your work, even basic ones.
- **Be Real:** Don't use buzzwords like "expert" if you're not one. Focus on clarity, not hype.

How to Share Your Journey and Attract Attention

You don't need to go viral. You just need to be visible to the right people.

What You Can Post:

- *“Just completed my first HTML course on freeCodeCamp!”*
- *“Here’s a mobile app I designed using Figma feedback is welcome.”*
- *“Tried building a to-do list app today using JavaScript. Still debugging, but I’m learning!”*

Posting Tips:

- Use 2–3 hashtags: #TechInAfrica #BeginnerInTech #LearningToCode
- Post once a week. Consistency builds trust.
- Comment on other learners' posts community grows visibility.
- Tag people or platforms that helped you learn (e.g., @freeCodeCamp, @SheCodeAfrica)

Your journey is content. Don't hide it.

Conclusion / Takeaway

You don't need permission to show up.

You don't need to wait until you're “ready.”

LinkedIn is one of the most powerful platforms for Africans in tech. It doesn't matter if you're just starting. What matters is showing that you're serious, consistent, and learning.

Just like Uzo, your first post could lead to your first paid gig. But it won't happen if you don't show up.

Action Points

- ☐ Create or update your LinkedIn headline and "About" section
- ☐ Add one sample project, certificate, or screenshot of your work
- ☐ Follow 5 African tech professionals or mentors
- ☐ Like and comment on 3 posts from other learners or tech creators
- ☐ Post one simple update about what you've learned or built this week

Final Word:

Your LinkedIn doesn't have to be perfect.

It just has to show who you are and what you're learning.

Opportunities notice consistency not perfection.

Keep building. Keep showing up.

Chapter 11: How to Get Your First Remote Job

Dayo's Leap

Dayo sat in his room in Ibadan, staring at the job post for the third time. It was a remote customer support role at a small tech company based in the UK. He had no prior job experience, no tech degree, and was still learning how to write professional emails. But something told him to try.

He opened Google Docs, drafted a basic CV, and used a free Canva template to make it look clean. He wrote a short cover letter, attached both files, and clicked “Apply.”

A few days later, he received an email inviting him for a short video interview. He almost didn't show up. But he did.

Two weeks after the interview, he got the job.

His first remote job. His first international work experience. His first dollar payment.

That one “yes” changed everything.

Why Remote Jobs Matter for You

Remote work is a big opportunity for people in Nigeria and across Africa. Why? Because:

- You don't need to relocate
- You don't need a tech degree or expensive equipment
- You can earn in foreign currency while living in your city or village

- You can work with global teams from your room

And the best part? Many remote jobs don't require coding.

Roles like:

- Virtual Assistant
- Customer Support
- Social Media Manager
- Content Writer
- Online Tutor
- Data Entry Specialist

are open to beginners — even while you're still learning.

What you need most is **confidence, communication, and consistency**.

You won't get every job. But you won't get hired at all if you don't try.

How to Apply for Junior-Level Remote Roles

Here's a simple step-by-step process:

1. Pick One Role You Want to Start With

Don't try to apply for everything. Choose one — maybe Virtual Assistant or Social Media Manager — and focus there.

2. Create a Basic CV and Cover Letter

Use Canva or NovoResume to make a simple one-page CV. Keep it clear and clean. We'll guide you more below.

3. **Search for Entry-Level Jobs Daily**

Set aside 30 minutes each day to look for new roles. Consistency wins.

4. **Apply Smart, Not Random**

Read each job post carefully. Tailor your message or cover letter to match what they're asking for. Don't just copy and paste.

5. **Track Your Applications**

Use a Google Sheet to write down where you've applied and when to follow up.

Where to Find Remote Jobs

These platforms are beginner-friendly:

- **Upwork** – Freelancers offer services (design, writing, VA, etc.)
<https://www.upwork.com>
- **LinkedIn Jobs** – Search for “remote,” “entry-level,” or “junior” roles
<https://www.linkedin.com/jobs>
- **Remote OK** – Remote jobs for tech and non-tech beginners
<https://remoteok.com>
- **Fiverr** – Create a gig for the services you can offer
<https://www.fiverr.com>
- **Deel** – Used by global companies to hire and pay remote workers
<https://www.deel.com>

How to Write Your First CV and Cover Letter

Let's keep this simple.

CV Tips:

- Use 1 page
- Write your name, phone, email, and location (city & country)
- List your skills (e.g., "Email Writing, Microsoft Word, Canva")
- Mention what you're currently learning
- Include any side projects (e.g., social media page you manage, designs you've made)

Free Templates:

Canva: <https://www.canva.com/resumes/>

NovoResume: <https://www.novoresume.com>

Sample Cover Letter:

CopyEdit

Hi [Hiring Manager's Name],

My name is [Your Name], and I'm an enthusiastic beginner currently learning [Skill]. I'm excited about the [Job Title] role at your company because I love helping people and learning fast.

Though I'm just starting out, I'm committed, reliable, and ready to grow. I'd love the chance to support your team and gain real experience.

Thank you for considering my application.

Best regards,

[Your Name]

Conclusion: Just Start

You don't need to feel ready. No one does in the beginning.

Dayo didn't think he qualified, but he tried — and that changed his story.

Your first job may be small. Your earnings may not be huge. But it will change how you see yourself.

You'll gain confidence. You'll learn how remote work works. You'll grow.

But none of that will happen unless you apply.

Start small. Start now.

Action Points

- ☐ Create a 1-page beginner CV using Canva
- ☐ Write your first simple cover letter
- ☐ Create a free account on one job platform (e.g., Upwork or LinkedIn)

- ☐ Apply for at least 1 remote job
- ☐ Tell 2 people in your network you're looking for a remote role

Your End Goal:

Say this out loud:

“I may not have all the experience yet — but I now know how to apply and where to start looking for real remote jobs.”

You’ve taken the first step. Keep going.

Chapter 12 : Tools You Should Learn to Use

Enter Tunde

Tunde used to feel lost.

He had big dreams of becoming a tech professional but couldn't keep up with his tasks. Notes were scattered across WhatsApp chats, voice memos, and random notebooks. Missed deadlines. Forgotten ideas. No structure.

Then something changed.

He joined a free tech bootcamp and was introduced to tools like **Notion**, **Trello**, and **Google Docs**. At first, it felt overwhelming. But with a few YouTube videos and practice, everything clicked.

He started tracking his daily tasks with Trello.

He took notes in Notion.

He wrote proposals and shared documents using Google Docs.

Within months, Tunde went from disorganized to dependable. He began freelancing part-time and even helped his team organize their workflow. Today, he manages his projects confidently — and he credits the tools for helping him grow.

Why You Need Digital Tools

You don't need to be a coding expert to break into tech.

But you do need to stay organized, communicate clearly, and work smart.

That's where digital tools come in.

These tools are like your tech toolbox. They help you:

- Plan your day
- Share your work
- Collaborate with others
- Build a professional image

Even as a beginner, learning how to use simple digital tools will make you stand out.

The best part?

You don't need to pay for most of them. And you don't need to be a tech guru to use them.

Beginner-Friendly Tools You Should Learn

1. Google Workspace (Docs, Sheets, Drive, Gmail)

This is your virtual office.

Here's how it helps:

- **Google Docs:** Write CVs, articles, or notes. Share them easily with others.
- **Google Sheets:** Track tasks, finances, or progress using simple spreadsheets.
- **Google Drive:** Store files online and access them anywhere.
- **Gmail:** Send professional emails with a simple, clean inbox.

Why it matters:

Almost every company uses these tools. If you can use them well, you'll fit into many teams quickly.

2. Canva

Canva helps you design even if you're not a designer.

You can use it to:

- Create your **CV** or **portfolio**
- Design **social media graphics**
- Make simple **presentations** or **flyers**

It's beginner-friendly. Just drag, drop, and edit.

3. Trello or Notion

These tools are for **organizing your life**.

- **Trello** uses boards and cards — great for managing tasks like “To-Do,” “Doing,” and “Done.”
- **Notion** is a flexible all-in-one tool. Take notes, create a personal wiki, or track your learning goals.

Why it matters:

The more organized you are, the more effective you'll be — especially when working remotely or freelancing.

4. ChatGPT

Yes, the tool you're using right now.

Here's what you can do with ChatGPT:

- Ask questions about tech topics
- Generate ideas or outlines for articles, CVs, or LinkedIn bios
- Practice interview questions
- Improve your writing

Bonus tip: Use it as your brainstorming buddy. It saves time and keeps you moving.

5. Zoom / Google Meet

You'll attend interviews, classes, and virtual meetings online.

These tools help you show up **professionally**.

- Learn how to **join** or **host** a meeting
- Practice muting/unmuting and using the chat
- Keep your background clean and your video steady

How to Learn These Tools (Even If You're Just Starting)

Don't worry about mastering everything at once.

Here's how to get started:

- **Watch tutorials on YouTube**
Search "How to use Trello for beginners" or "Google Docs basics."
- **Practice using them**
Create a test project. Take notes. Write an idea. Just explore.

- **Join communities**

Follow accounts that share Notion or Canva templates. Many African tech learners share free resources on X (Twitter) and LinkedIn.

Conclusion: Just Start With One

You don't need to become a pro in one day.

Just pick one tool and start using it.

As you grow, so will your confidence and your efficiency.

These tools will help you:

- Plan your work
- Show your learning
- Collaborate with others
- Look professional even as a beginner

Action Points

- ☐ Create a **Google Drive** account and explore **Google Docs**
- ☐ Design something small on **Canva** (a CV or graphic)
- ☐ Set up a **Notion** or **Trello** board for one project
- ☐ Use **ChatGPT** to brainstorm an idea or write an outline
- ☐ Attend or host a Zoom or Google Meet session with a friend

Conclusion: You're Ready to Start, One Step at a Time

If you've made it to this point, I want you to pause and appreciate something powerful:

You've just equipped yourself with the mindset, tools, and direction to break into tech right here in Nigeria or anywhere in Africa.

You don't need a Computer Science degree.

You don't need to know someone on the inside.

You just need to start where you are, stay consistent, and keep learning.

Whether you choose design, data, development, or digital marketing, there's room for you in this space. And the journey doesn't have to be lonely — your community, your mentors, your tools, and your next opportunity are all a message, a click, or a post away.

Let's Stay Connected

Your journey into tech is just beginning. I'd love to keep helping you grow, explore, and succeed.

**Dr. Oluwaseun
Ogunmola**

CEO

Oluwaseun Ogunmola
Technology Consulting



Follow me across my platforms where I share practical resources, updates, and mentorship opportunities tailored for African tech beginners like you:

LinkTree: <https://linktr.ee/seun.ogunmola>

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YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@aiinafricatv>

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Selar Store (for my digital products and courses):
<https://selar.com/m/seunogunmola>

I share everything I know so more people like you can get started faster and smarter with no gatekeeping.

If this book helped you, do one more thing: **share it with someone who needs it.**

Together, we can build a stronger African tech community — one beginner, one step, one success story at a time.

See you at the top.

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