

Initiative means taking proactive and confident action without the need of approval from others

Why it matters

- ☞ Taking initiative with your career means that you are less dependant on others for your development
- ☞ Taking initiative with your job means you can craft your role around your skills rather than default to delivering on a generic job description
- ☞ Initiative is a skill that's in demand from employers.

"The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing."

[Walt Disney](#)

Coach yourself questions

What stops you from taking initiative?



What would you be doing differently if you took significantly more initiative at work?



Ideas for action



1. Approach work with a MVP mindset

MVP (Minimum Viable Progress) is where an idea or insight is developed and shared before it is perfect in order to get other people's perspectives.

MVP could be a high-level plan for an event, a loose structure for a presentation, or the outline of a report.

- ☞ *Test your MVP in a team meeting, a WhatsApp group or on a LinkedIn post to get some fast feedback.*

2. Know the what and own the how

Understanding 'what' your main objective is creates clarity for your work. Deciding 'how' you're going to get there, gives you the opportunity to take initiative over the outcome.

- ☞ *Asking 'how else / where else / who else' means that you go beyond the obvious answer and generate more solutions. This helps you to demonstrate higher levels of initiative.*

3. Look ahead and around

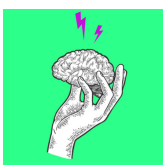
Looking ahead helps you to anticipate opportunities and pre-empt problems. Looking around increases your learning as you gain insight from other people, industries, and companies. This information can lead to more ideas for your initiative to be put into action.

4. Make more of the moment

In your meetings and conversations, think about how you can be memorable in the moment.

- ☞ *Ask yourself, how can I follow-up after a meeting in a way that is useful and unique?*

Recommended resources



Get some initiative inspiration by reading about the ['start-up mindset'](#)



Use [this framework](#) to scan your environment for some 'look around' insights



Helen and Sarah's conversation about when it's [great to be 'good enough'](#) will support your initiative skills.