

ai

AI TRAINING CAREERS

THE FREE GUIDE

The AI Trainer Starter Guide

The remote jobs that pay you to train AI — which ones fit your background, what their tests really measure, and how to apply without wasting three weeks.

START HERE

There's a whole industry hiring, and almost nobody knows

Every AI model you've heard of was taught, in part, by ordinary people reading answers, judging which is better, and explaining why. Teachers, writers, nurses, translators, grad students. The work is remote, paid by the hour or task, and mostly on your own schedule.

The catch isn't difficulty. It's that these jobs are almost never advertised where normal people look. This is the map.

One promise, up front

Nobody can guarantee you a job here, and anyone who says otherwise is selling something. Every platform runs its own test that you sit yourself. This guide makes sure you apply to the right ones, prepared — instead of guessing.

Your best-fit platforms

Start with these three rather than applying everywhere at once — scattering yourself is the number-one reason people burn out before their first reply arrives.

Start with these	Why it fits you
DataAnnotation	Beginner-friendly, general reasoning and writing work.
Outlier (Scale AI)	Broadest range of projects across skill levels.
Appen or TELUS	Steadier entry-level volume while you build a track record.

What the work actually is

A few task shapes come up again and again. You'll meet all of them; you don't need to be good at all of them.

- **Comparison & ranking** — two answers, pick the better, explain why. The most common task.
- **Writing model responses** — write the ideal answer yourself.
- **Fact-checking & correction** — catch and fix what's wrong; experts paid a premium.
- **Labelling & annotation** — the entry-level end; tagging, transcribing, moderating.

What the assessment actually measures

Strong applicants fail these tests constantly, almost always for the same reason: they judge which answer *sounds* better, when the rubric measures something more specific and ordered.

#	Rubric priority	What it means
1	Factual accuracy	Is every claim true? One buried error sinks an elegant answer.
2	Instruction-following	Did it do what the prompt literally asked — format, length, constraints?
3	Completeness	Did it answer the whole question, not just the easy half?
4	Clarity & tone	Is it well-organised and appropriately pitched?
5	Formatting	Lists, headings, code blocks where they help.

Three habits that pass the test

- **Check the facts before you judge the prose.** Accuracy outranks elegance, every time.
- **Re-read the prompt and list what it literally asked for.** A pretty answer that ignored an instruction loses.
- **Write your justification as evidence, not opinion.** Point to the specific sentence, error, or omission.

Never let anyone touch your live assessment

Not a friend, not a paid 'helper', not an AI. Every platform treats outside help on a live assessment as fraud and bans for it — sometimes withholding pay you've earned. Practise on your own examples, then sit the real one yourself. This is the one rule that can cost you everything.

AVOID THESE

Six mistakes that get applications rejected

1. Applying to eleven platforms in one weekend

You exhaust yourself, submit rushed work, and quit before the first reply. Do three, properly.

2. A resume that lists job titles, not judgement

Lead with evidence you can evaluate work — “graded 120 essays a term to a state rubric,” not just a job title and dates.

3. Judging by ‘sounds better’

The rubric ranks accuracy first. Beautiful prose with a factual error loses. Fact-check before you form an opinion.

4. Skipping what the prompt literally asked

“In three bullet points” means three. Missing an explicit instruction is an automatic mark-down.

5. Vague, opinion-only justifications

“I just prefer A” scores nothing. Point to the specific sentence, error, or omission.

6. Sloppy mechanics in your writing sample

Your writing IS the test. Typos and run-ons read as ‘can’t be trusted with the work.’ Proofread twice.

What it realistically pays

Honest numbers. Everything here is contractor income — no guaranteed hours, no benefits, and volume that rises and falls.

- **Month one is the slowest.** Onboarding and calibration. A few hundred dollars is realistic. Most quitters quit here.
- **Speed compounds.** Per-task pay is the same at twenty minutes or eight. Month six is worth far more per hour than month one.
- **By month three,** someone treating this as serious part-time income usually earns meaningfully more, across two or three platforms.

For your background: Your fastest route to higher pay is picking up a specialism the expert streams want — coding, a science, a second language, or a licensed profession.

How to tell a real platform from a scam

This niche attracts scammers precisely because the real jobs are unfamiliar. The good news: fakes almost always trip one of these wires.

Walk away immediately if...

- They ask for your **SSN, a photo of your ID, or bank login** before a written offer. Real platforms collect tax details through a secure portal *after* you're hired.
- There's an **up-front fee** for training, equipment, or certification. You never pay to work.
- You're 'hired' over **Telegram, WhatsApp, or text** with no real interview and odd urgency.
- They send a **check and ask you to buy equipment** or send part back. Classic overpayment scam.
- The pay is **wildly high for trivial work**. Real rating work is deliberate and skill-screened.

Green flags of a legitimate platform

- A real company site, a privacy policy, and a way to contact support.
- Free to apply; the screening is a skills test, not a payment.
- Tax paperwork (a W-9 in the US) comes through the platform after you pass.
- You can find other workers discussing it in public communities.

Your first week

- **Day 1** — Set up accounts on the three platforms above.
- **Day 2–3** — Rewrite your profile around evidence of judgement in your field. Re-read the assessment section.
- **Day 4–5** — Sit the first assessment fresh. Fact-check before you judge. Proofread twice.
- **Day 6–7** — Submit the other two. Then wait — replies take two days to six weeks. Don't quit in the silence.

You're more prepared than most people who've been at this for months. Go get the first one.

Want a hand doing it? AI Training Careers offers preparation coaching — platform-fit analysis, a profile rewrite, and practice assessments built to mirror the real rubrics. We never touch a live assessment and we never promise a hire. See aitrainingcareers.com/coaching.html.

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