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Essential Summer Reading for Entrepreneurs and Business Leaders

As a business owner, you don't have a lot of time for leisure. So when it comes to reading, you probably tend to start and stop at the balance sheet. But the truth is, business leaders have a lot to gain from reading. Whether it's tips on building a successful enterprise or insight into what motivates employees, books are a treasure trove of information that can help you and your company grow. That's why we've handpicked some top-notch titles every entrepreneur and business leader should put on their to-read list this summer.

Books on Starting a Business

Starting a business comes with a steep learning curve. Luckily, you don't have to figure it all out on your own. Learn from the successes and failures of entrepreneurs who've gone before you and build a more resilient business when you read these five books on [starting a business](#), recommended by Business Insider.

- *The Art of the Start 2.0: The Time-Tested, Battle-Hardened Guide for Anyone Starting Anything* by Guy Kawasaki
- *Entrepreneurial You: Monetize Your Expertise, Create Multiple Income Streams, and Thrive* by Dorie Clark
- *Think Big, Act Bigger: The Rewards of Being Relentless* by Jeffrey W. Hayzlett
- *Simple Numbers, Straight Talk, Big Profits: 4 Keys to Unlock Your Business Potential* by Greg Crabtree
- *The Lean Startup: How Today's Entrepreneurs Use Continuous Innovation to Create Radically Successful Businesses* by Eric Ries

Books on Being a Better Leader

Few people are natural born leaders. Most of us have to work to cultivate the skills needed to lead ourselves — and others — to success. Luckily, you don't have to learn the hard way. Let these [expert-recommended reads](#) teach you the essential skills of effective leadership.

- *The Leadership Challenge: How to Make Extraordinary Things Happen in Organizations* by James M. Kouzes and Barry Z. Posner
- *Off the Clock: Feel Less Busy While Getting More Done* by Laura Vanderkam
- *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* by Stephen R. Covey
- *Dare to Lead: Brave Work, Tough Conversations, Whole Hearts* by Brené Brown

Books on Managing a Team

Being a leader isn't only about bold ideas and big picture strategies. Business leaders also need to be effective at managing people in order to create productive, efficient, and effective organizations. Management is among the hardest leadership skills to master, but Entrepreneur notes these [management books](#) will help you become a better boss.

- *How to Win Friends and Influence People* by Dale Carnegie
- *The Power of Habit* by Charles Duhigg
- *Extreme Ownership* by Jocko Willink and Leif Babin
- *The Hard Thing about Hard Things* by Ben Horowitz
- *Nudge* by Richard Thaler

Making time for reading just might be the smartest thing you do as a business leader. When you read, you accelerate your learning so you become a better business owner, manager, and leader that much faster. Instead of growing your business the hard way, let books like these inform your path as you move forward in leadership and in business.