



10 Tips to go from Average to Extraordinary

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Some people are very happy to be average. And if you are, that is fine. There is a place for everyone in this world. If you are someone who wants to be more than average, who wants to make a difference, or leave their mark on the world, then you need to do that bit extra. If you are someone who wants to shake things up, then read on.

1. Believe in yourself. Believe that you have what it takes and that you can be better than average. When you believe in yourself you have the courage to put yourself out there.
2. Have a clear vision. Without a vision you have no direction. Without a vision you have no idea why you are working and so it becomes quite easy to stop working. A clear vision motivates action.
3. Take action. You cannot wait until you feel secure or everything is in place before you start. You have to jump in and keep going. Of course don't do anything really stupid, but you have to take the chance even without the certainty that it will work out.
4. You have to persevere. You can be the most talented, intelligent and creative person, but without perseverance you are going nowhere. You will remain mediocre. There is no easy path to the top. It is a long hard slog.
5. Know yourself. And that means know yourself on a very deep level. Your light and your darkness. Your good and your bad habits. Understand how you think, feel and behave. Understand your patterns of behaviour. Understand your strengths and weaknesses. If you don't know yourself well, then something about yourself will trip you up.
6. Keep physically, mentally and spiritually well. This does not mean you don't work hard. It means you have time out if you are exhausted. You make the effort to be healthy and rested. You manage your life so you don't get too stressed out and succumb to physical and mental illnesses such as continual flu or depression and anxiety.
7. Be flexible. Have a plan, but understand that the environment changes. Which means you need to be able to adjust your mindset and plan as your environment changes. You either learn to bend and flex or you break.
8. Be fully committed to your goals. Don't wait around and let life just happen to you. Shape your life through vision, commitment and hard work. Develop habits that keep you focused and go after your dreams. Every single day remind yourself why your goals are so important to you.
9. Invest in your knowledge. Be a voracious learner. You are not going to improve and innovate unless you learn and grow. Never stop seeking to expand your knowledge and understanding of the world around you.

10. Surround yourself with other high achievers. We often reflect the attitudes and behaviours of those we spend a lot of time with. Spend too much time with negative people and you may find yourself drifting into a pessimistic mindset. Surround yourself with good company. Gravitate toward go-getters. Look to those who inspire you and whose thinking inspires you to open your mind to new possibilities.

Most of these are habits. Changing habits can be challenging and you don't want to do all 10 at once as that is too much. Trying to do too much in one go is as bad as doing nothing. Both just leave you feeling like a failure and with a reluctance to try again. Pick one or two and practice doing those for a month. Then decide on another one and add that for the coming month. Making a difference does not happen overnight. It is the result of a set of deliberate actions practiced over and over again.