

Do you want to create a buyer persona for your business? Smart marketers know that clearly defining your ideal customer is the key to high conversions. In this guide, we'll share how to create a concrete buyer persona (with templates & examples).

Here's a quick overview of what we'll cover in this guide. Feel free to use the links below to skip to a particular section.

Table of Contents

- What is a Buyer Persona?
- How to Create a Buyer Persona
- Buyer Persona Templates & Tools
- 188 Buyer Persona Questions
- Buyer Persona Examples

Ready to get started creating your buyer persona? Let's begin with the basics...

What is a Buyer Persona?

If you've never created a buyer persona before, you may be wondering, what is a buyer persona and why is it important for your business?

Buyer Persona Definition

A **buyer persona** (a.k.a. "customer avatar") is a fictional person who represents a particular company's ideal customer.

The purpose of creating a buyer persona is to get crystal clear on the individuals who you are marketing to. Until you nail this down, you can't really be sure that your offerings and your marketing messaging are going to be successful. That's why the buyer persona is often based on real customers, and/or extensive research.

I should also note that you may have more than one buyer persona. That's perfectly OK! Sometimes your product or service is a good fit for several different "types" of people, so you'll just need to create a buyer persona for each. That way, when you go to write any given blog post, email or sales page, (or even create a new product), you'll know exactly which buyer persona(s) you are speaking to. And in turn, you'll enjoy *much* higher conversion rates.

OK, now that you know what a buyer persona is and why it is so important for your business, let's dive in to how to create your own!

How to Create a Buyer Persona

The first thing you'll want to do when creating a buyer persona is to do some research on your existing customers (if you have any). These people actually bought from you, so they are the most targeted people to look at.

Ask your marketing and sales team to see what they can tell you about your existing customers demographics and other characteristics (see the **list of questions** below). However, don't rely exclusively on your marketing and sales team to know all of this information. In most cases, you'll need to conduct a survey to get all the information you need.

Step 1: Customer/Prospect Survey

The best thing you can do is to actually get on the phone (or a Skype call) with your customers and have a chat with them, one-on-one. I like to do this at least once or twice per year.

If you don't have any existing customers, then speak with your email subscribers, social media followers, or any other leads you have. Simply say that you are doing some research to better serve them, and ask if they would be available for a brief 10-15 minute call.

If you don't have any leads at all, go look at your competition's customers. You can read reviews online, and even try to track these individuals down on social media to learn more about them. Which brings me to our next step...

Step 2: Online Research

While getting on a phone call is the *best* way to research your ideal customers, there is also another way to go about it: online research.

This part may seem a bit creepy, but I like to choose a particular individual and track them down on all of their social media profiles, publications, and other websites. Facebook and LinkedIn are my favorite places to look for information that can help me fill out my buyer persona.

As you go about your research, keep a document with links to all relevant information on that person. This way, you can come back to these links later as you are creating your customer avatar.

Also, don't just look at what's on the surface. Try to read between the lines to figure out what makes that person "tick" (not just what they want the world to see).

Step 3: The Customer Avatar Exercise

Now that you've gathered your information—both on the phone and online—you are ready to start the customer avatar exercise.

This exercise is where you'll actually write down everything that you know about your ideal customer.

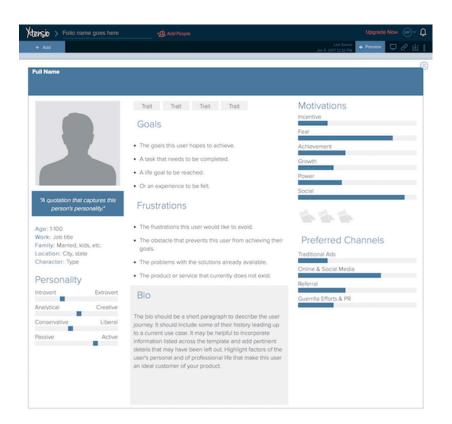
I personally like to use Digital Marketer's Customer Avatar Worksheet (see **templates below**), but you could use any of the templates or tools below.

The idea is to create a concrete character that anyone in your company can use to better understand your target customers.

Buyer Persona Templates & Tools

There are *tons* of buyer persona templates, tools and generators freely available on the internet, but here is a curated list of all the best ones...

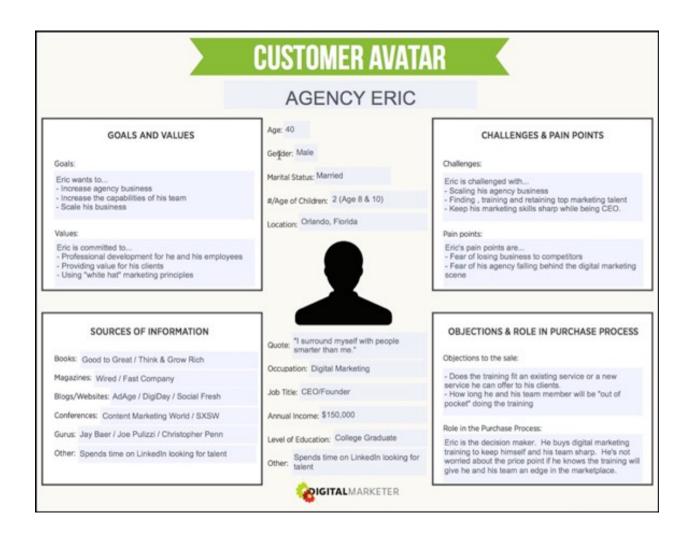
1. Xtensio's User Persona Creator



Xtensio's User Persona Creator is a neat app that allows you to enter your buyer persona's demographics, goals, frustrations, bio, motivations, preferred channels

and brands. You can even add modules to the avatar as you see fit. Register for a free account to get started with the tool.

2. Digital Marketer's Customer Avatar Worksheet



Digital Marketer's Customer Avatar Worksheet is my preferred buyer persona template. It includes all of the

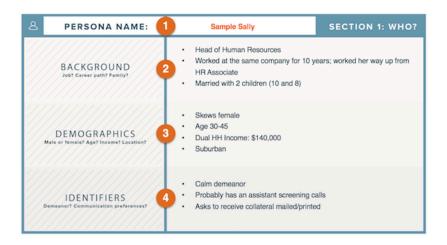
important areas to nail down, in a simple PDF format that you can fill in on your computer. They've also included one sheet for females and one for males.

3. Demand Metric's Buyer Persona Template



Demand Metric's Buyer Persona Template is an Excel spreadsheet that includes multiple tabs for multiple personas. It's a great way to view all of your target customers at a glance, with all relevant information. They've even included a video with helpful instructions for filling it out.

4. HubSpot's Buyer Persona Template



HubSpot's Buyer Persona Template includes 4 sections for answering the important questions: who, what, why and how. This template also includes a guide for creating buyer personas.

5. Marketo's Marketing Persona Cheat Sheet

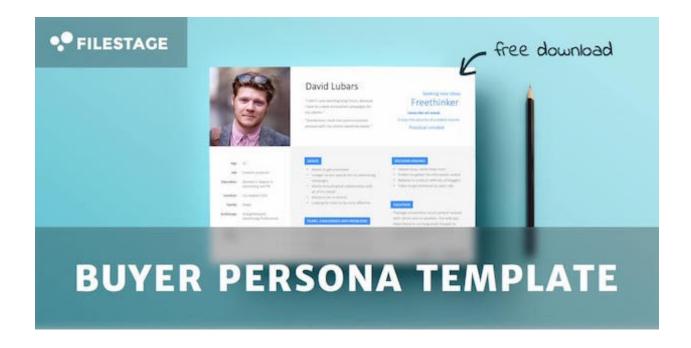
To map your own persona buying journeys, create a spreadsheet with a separate tab for each buying phase, and fill in the following items:

Buying Phase				
Actions & Questions	Buyer Action	Buyer Doing (Y/N)?		Questions Buyer Asks
Key Buyer Actions	Event Occurs		Event #1	
			Event #2	
			Event #3	
	Problem Surfaces		Problem #1	
			Problem #2	
			Problem #3	
	Consequences of Problem Identified			
	Consider Alternatives for Solving the Problem			
	Phase Exit Criteria			

Questions for each buying phase of a persona's buying journey

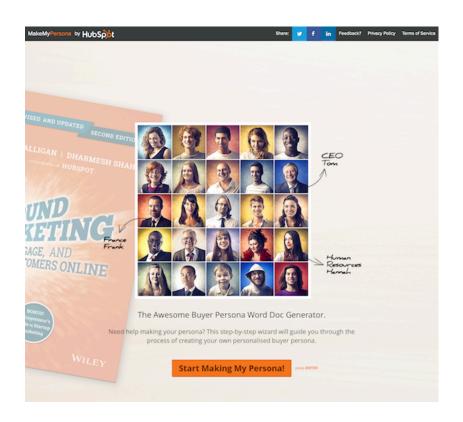
Marketo's Marketing Persona Cheat Sheet is unique in that it includes a fill-in-the-blank map for creating your buyer persona journeys. It also includes instructions for how to create a buyer persona and journey, along with a buyer journey template.

6. Filestage's Buyer Persona Template



Filestage's Buyer Persona Template is simple and elegant. Some unique features of this template are sections for a tag cloud, archetype and product adoption group. It also comes with a PowerPoint version, as well as a PDF version.

7. "MakeMyPersona" Buyer Persona Generator



MakeMyPersona is a buyer persona generator by HubSpot. All you have to do is click on the "Start Making My Persona" button, and it will ask you a series of questions about your ideal customer. Once you're done, they will send you a PDF complete with a headshot for your customer avatar.

188 Buyer Persona Questions

While the above buyer persona templates are excellent starting points, sometimes you'll want to go more indepth than the questions covered by any generic template.

Depending on your industry and your products, there are certain "niche" buyer persona questions which are important for your business to answer.

To help you discover these questions, we've compiled a comprehensive list of every possible question we could think of that you would want to ask about your target customer. The list is broken down into categories, so just focus on the categories and questions which are relevant to your business, and ignore the rest...

Demographics

- 1. What is your name?
- 2. What is your age?

- 3. What is your gender?
- 4. Where do you live?
- 5. What is your racial/ethnic heritage?
- 6. What is your annual income?
- 7. What is your highest level of education?
- 8. What is your occupation?

Back Story

- 9. What is your birthplace?
- 10. Where did you grow up?
- 11. Was it a rural, suburban, or urban area?
- 12. What kind of house did you grow up in?
- 13. Who raised you?
- 14. What did your parents (or primary caregivers) do for a living?
- 15. Are your parents still married?

- 16. Did your parents have a permissive or authoritarian parenting style?
- 17. Do you have any siblings?
- 18. What is your birth order?
- 19. What are your favorite childhood memories?
- 20. What were your favorite childhood activities?
- 21. What was your favorite subject in school?
- 22. What was your least favorite subject?
- 23. What grades did you get in school?
- 24. Do you enjoy learning new things?
- 25. Did you have a lot of friends, a few close friends, or no friends?
- 26. Did you get in trouble at school?
- 27. Did you attend college?
- 28. If so, what did you major in?
- 29. What college did you attend?
- 30. Did you enjoy your college experience?

- 31. What did you do after high school if you didn't attend college?
- 32. What stopped you from going to college?
- 33. What was your first job?

Personal Life

- 34. What is your marital status?
- 35. Are you happy about your current marital status?
- 36. Do you have any children?
- 37. If so, how many and how old are they?
- 38. Are they boys or girls?
- 39. Do your children live with you?
- 40. If you don't have children, do you want to have children in the future?
- 41. Are you likely to have children in the future?
- 42. Do you have any pets?
- 43. If yes, how many and what are they?

- 44. What type of housing do you currently live in?
- 45. Who lives in the house with you?
- 46. Are you happy with your current situation, or do you wish it was different?
- 47. How close are you to your extended family?
- 48. Do you currently have many friends, a few friends, or no friends at all?
- 49. Do you see your friends often?
- 50. Who are the most important people in your life?
- 51. Are you religious?
- 52. What is your political orientation?
- 53. Are you actively involved in politics?
- 54. Do you make an effort to stay fit and healthy?
- 55. What type of exercise do you do?
- 56. If you don't exercise, why not?
- 57. Do you play any sports?
- 58. Do you care about your personal appearance?
- 59. What hobbies do you currently pursue?

- 60. What do you like to do in your free time?
- 61. What social groups/activities do you participate in?
- 62. Are you environmentally conscious?
- 63. What is your favorite TV show?
- 64. What is your favorite movie?
- 65. What type of music do you listen to?
- 66. Do you enjoy reading?
- 67. Are you a morning person or a night owl?
- 68. What do you do first thing in the morning?
- 69. Do you cook at home or eat out?
- 70. Are you a neat freak, or are you OK with messes?
- 71. How much time do you spend at work and at home?
- 72. How do you spend your weekends?
- 73. Where do you shop?
- 74. What do you read for fun?
- 75. Do you drink?
- 76. Do you smoke?

- 77. Do you experiment with recreational substances?
- 78. What do you wish was different about your weekly routine?
- 79. Are you tech-savvy?
- 80. What news sources do you read?
- 81. Do you enjoy traveling?
- 82. Do you regularly go on vacations?
- 83. If so, where do you go?
- 84. Have you ever been backpacking?
- 85. What is your current literacy level?
- 86. Do you prefer baths or showers?

Career

- 87. What is your industry?
- 88. What is your job title?
- 89. What are your responsibilities?
- 90. Who do you report to?

- 91. What is the size of your company?
- 92. What skills are required for your job?
- 93. What metrics are you responsible for/how is your job measured?
- 94. What does a typical work day look like?
- 95. What knowledge and tools do you use in your job?
- 96. What are your challenges at work?
- 97. How do you learn new information for your job?
- 98. How do you prefer to interact with vendors?
- 99. How did you arrive at your current position?
- 100. What is your salary?
- 101. Do you feel like you are compensated fairly?
- 102. Do you like your boss?
- 103. Do you like your coworkers?
- 104. Do you like the work you are assigned to?
- 105. What would you change about your job, if you could?
- 106. What does your career path look like?

- 107. Are you considering a career change?
- 108. What is your dream job?
- 109. Do you have plans to pursue your dream job?
- 110. What work-related associations do you participate in?
- 111. When do you plan to retire?

Personality

- 112. Are you an introvert or an extrovert?
- 113. Are you optimistic or pessimistic?
- 114. Are you more right-brained or left-brained?
- 115. Are you quiet or boisterous?
- 116. Are you practical or prone to flights of fancy?
- 117. Do you prefer to follow the rules or challenge boundaries?
- 118. Do you like to take risks or play it safe?
- 119. Are you an innovator, or someone who tends to go with the flow?

- 120. Are you flexible or rigid in your thought patterns?
- 121. Are you spontaneous or do you prefer predetermined plans?
- 122. Are you motivated by your own achievements or by what others think of your efforts?
- 123. How affected are you emotionally by other people's judgments?
- 124. What would it take for you to deem your life a success?
- 125. What would make you think your life was a failure?

Web/Purchase Behavior

- 126. What social media sites do you use?
- 127. How do you use the internet to search for products or vendors?
- 128. Could you describe a recent purchase?
- 129. How do you prefer to make online payments?
- 130. Are you concerned about online privacy?

- 131. How adept are you at using technology?
- 132. Do you tend to embrace new technologies or prefer to stick with systems you know?
- 133. Are you a fluent internet user?
- 134. What operating system do you use?
- 135. What internet browser do you use?
- 136. What mobile devices do you use?
- 137. What is your preferred search engine?
- 138. What is your preferred method of communication?
- 139. What sites do you usually shop on?
- 140. Do you use your cell phone to make purchases?
- 141. Where do you go to learn about a product or service?
- 142. How important is it for you to get a good deal?
- 143. What indulgent or luxurious purchases do you make?

Finances

- 144. What is your net worth?
- 145. Do you have debt?
- 146. If so, what type?
- 147. Do you make purchase decisions carefully, or are you loose with your money?
- 148. How do you feel about your current spending habits?
- 149. What factors drive you to make a purchase?
- 150. Are you the main bread-winner in your household?
- 151. Are you the financial/purchase decision-maker?

Goals, Challenges & Pain Points

- 152. What are your goals in life?
- 153. What are your career goals?
- 154. What do you hope to gain from using our product?
- 155. What accomplishments are you the most proud of?
- 156. What are the top three things on your bucket list?
- 157. What is the most frustrating part of your day?

- 158. What regular activities do you find stressful?
- 159. What makes you nervous?
- 160. What do you worry about?
- 161. What makes you feel scared?
- 162. What is the fastest way for someone to make you angry?
- 163. What is the least favorite part of your job?
- 164. What is the worst job you can imagine?
- 165. What is the worst customer service experience you've ever had?
- 166. What purchase did you most regret?

Product Insight/Objections to the Sale

- 167. What objections do you have to our product?
- 168. What factors might make you choose a competitor's product over ours?
- 169. How can we help you to solve your unique challenges?

- 170. How does our product help you become your ideal self?
- 171. How do you prefer to communicate?
- 172. How can we meet your needs through onboarding?
- 173. What questions would you ask yourself before buying a product?
- 174. What is your number one concern when deciding whether or not to make a purchase?
- 175. How do you prefer to make a purchase (online, over the phone, or in person)?
- 176. When making a purchase online, what is your preferred payment method?

Questions to Ask Your Marketing & Sales Teams

- 177. What technical and demographic information do you have about our website visitors?
- 178. How are you currently marketing to our target customers?

- 179. What marketing campaigns have been the most successful?
- 180. What marketing campaigns have been the least successful?
- 181. Which blog posts have received the most traffic/social shares/comments/etc.?
- 182. What are the most frequently asked questions on the blog or from customers?
- 183. Which pages on our website receive the most impressions?
- 184. What types of customers do you typically meet?
- 185. Why do different types of customers typically make a purchase?
- 186. What reasons do customers cite for selecting us over our competitors?
- 187. What are the most common objections you hear?

Buyer Persona Examples

So far, we've shown you how to create a buyer persona, buyer persona templates and tools, and a comprehensive list of buyer persona questions. Now, let's take a look at some concrete examples...

BRANDI TYLER



PROFILE Narrow Feet

GENDER Female

36

LOCATION

Los Angeles, CA

OCCUPATION Receptionist; \$38k

AGE

Brandi gets very emotional about shopping for shoes in retail stores because she rarely can find a pait that fits her narrow feet. Recently, she's turned to online shopping to avoid the hassle of shopping in stores. Brandi found Munro after Googling "narrow width shoes" and reading other reviews online about the company.

GOALS

- · Needs an SS (4A) width shoe
- · Would like to purchase several pairs to fit occasion, style, and color
- · Hoping to find that she doesn't have to sacrifice style or options when searching

FRUSTRATIONS

- · Not being able to filter available shoes by width
- · Getting far fewer options when she applies width filter

· No other recommended shoes when she's looking at a pair she particularly likes



"My whole life has been a choice between fit and style - when I was younger, I went for style & my feet killed me. As an adult, I tried for fit & the styles were for 95 year olds. This shoe is the 1st time I could get both."

"I wear a 4A and I have struggled my entire life finding shoes narrow enough for my feet and more so in recent years. I stumbled onto this Munro brand sandal and was shocked to find it comes in up to a 4A width and it actually fit and is like wearing a glove! I now have two pairs in different colors."

"Love these slides so much I went out and bought two more pairs. I have very narrow feet and they fit perfectly. They're very stylish and I get compliments whenever I wear them."



Shared by Indie Game Girl

Facility/Operations Manager Fred



Personal Background

- Age: 45-55
- Married with 1 kid in College, 1 in HS
- · Education: Undergraduate

Role: Facility or Operations Manager

- Job measured: space and operations efficiency, employee productivity
- Skills required: People management, analysis, industry knowledge
- Reports to: CEO or General Manager
- Manages: Operations staff

Company information

- · Industry: Distribution, Manufacturing, 3PL
- · Yearly Revenue: \$20M
- Employees: 100

Goals and Challenges

- · Success means: a raise and promotion
- Values most: Job security, family, recognition for success, church
- Biggest challenges: New systems, managing people, keeping all balls in air
- Biggest objections: Appearance, liability, suitability, not state of the art, look dumb

Shopping and Industry News Preferences

- · Preferred communication: Email, phone
- · Use internet for buying research: Much
- Gets updated industry news: Specific industry publication
- · Industry publications: Trade magazines
- · Industry associations: Industry trade groups
- · Social networking sites: LinkedIn?



Shared by Mallory Haack

Shared by Buffer

Background:

- *Staff Accountant at Founder Accounting
- *Completed his undergraduate degree at Penn State and his masters at Cornell University
- *Has a serious girlfriend and two dogs (a Labrador retriever and a pug mix)

Demographics:

- *Male
- *Age 34
- *Annual HH income: \$125,000
- *Lives in a townhouse-style condo in an urban area

Goals:

- *Become a senior accountant within 3-5 years
- *Achieve a salary of \$80,000 so that he can purchase a single family home
- *Network aggressively in order to build professional contacts

Tommy Technology



Hobbies & Interests:

- *Running 5K races with his girlfriend
- *Watching Game of Thrones
- *Going out to brunch with other young couples
- *Taking one nice vacation a year to established tourist destinations

Challenges:

- *Wants to have a more modern website, but isn't the final decisionmaker
- *Struggles with being seen as the "young guy" in the office and being taken less seriously as a result

Common Objections:

- *I love the idea of a new website, by my boss will never go for it! He doesn't see the value in new technology.
- *I'd love to get started on a new website, but I don't think I can get buy-in from my boss. He never takes my ideas seriously.

Biggest Fears:

- *Getting stuck in a job and not advancing up the corporate ladder as quickly as he'd like
- *Economic recessions that mean he'll never be able to retire
- *Life passing him by too quickly

Shared by Single Grain

That's it! We've shown you what is a buyer persona, and how to create a buyer persona for your business. We also shared some buyer persona templates and tools, a comprehensive list of questions to ask about your target customer, and some examples of buyer personas.

Now it's your turn. Go ahead and follow the steps above to create your own buyer persona, and get crystal clear on the individuals you are serving. You may also want to check out our **Definitive Guide to Email Marketing**.



Convert Abandoning Visitors into

Subscribers & Customers



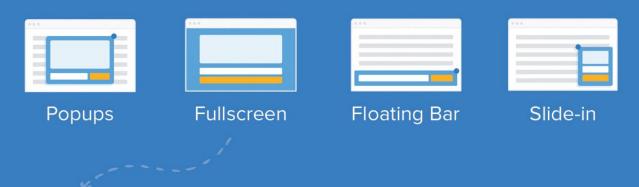
Powerful Conversion Optimization Toolkit to Grow Your Email List and Boost Sales!

How Does OptinMonster Work?

OptinMonster allows you to unlock the highest conversion revenue from each visitor by helping you detect user's behavior and show them the most targeted offer at the right time.

- 1 Detect User Behavior:
- 2 Create a Personalized Offer:
- 🚠 Onsite Follow-ups 🛮 🛕 Referrer Detection 🗓 User's Device

3 Display Offer with High Converting Forms:



4 Test & Improve

Join Thousands of Smart Business Owners using OptinMonster to Grow their Business

DIGITALMARKETER Bankrate Tripadvisor Intuit shutterstock McAfee Alexa

Don't just take our word. See what our users are saying:

In only 7 months, **we added more than 95,000 users** to our email list using OptinMonster's Exit Intent® technology. We strongly recommend it!

- Michael Stelzner - Founder, Social Media Examiner

Want more leads? We did too! With OptinMonster, we were able to generate more leads, show the right message at the right time, and directly push those leads to our CRM.

Seeing 5-7% more leads from traffic you're already getting is pretty sweet!

- Justin Rondeau - Director of Optimization, DigitalMarketer