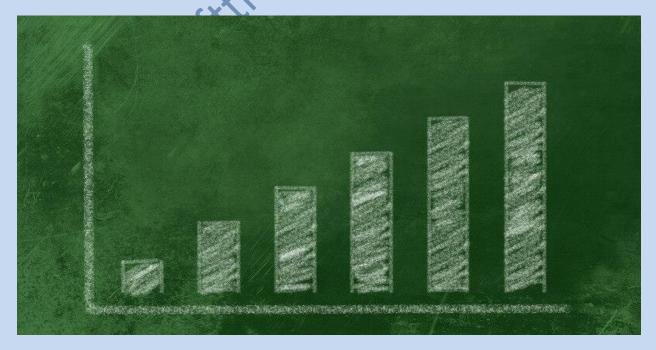
# Guide Tuition: (www.guidetuition.com) SEO Case Study - Zero to 20,000 visitors in 8 months



Here is the process i used to successfully build up traffic for a brand-new website - - without using any tricks or hacks.



You need more traffic.

More visitors on your site means more impressions, more signups, more purchases — more revenue.

But how do you capture more traffic from search results that are becoming more crowded, more diverse, and evolving in the way they are delivered?

#### With SEO, of course!

Today, I want to share a process we've developed at Guide Tuition to earn links and visibility, and to increase web traffic for our clients. I'm going to walk through how we built a site's SEO strategy from the ground up — growing from zero visitors to 20,000 — and share key takeaways that you can apply to your own strategy.





The general outline of our strategy was:

- Start slow and take advantage of "easy wins."
- Focus on securing a handful of strategic links to important pages.
- Establish passive link acquisition channels to build momentum.
- Be intentional about content creation and its impact on search.
- Level up over time, and target higher-value opportunities.

Let's dive into the case study.

**Note:** We had control over every aspect of the site, making it much easier to accurately attribute organic gains to the SEO work we were implementing, as well as to make SEO recommendations every step of the way. I have also anonymized the data to maintain confidentiality for the website.

#### 1. Starting slow with a new site

Starting with a new site, we understood there were limitations.

At the beginning, we focused on opportunities with low competition and decent traffic value. We used SEMrush to determine traffic value and manual research to gauge competition.

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Examining the search engine results pages (SERPs), we looked for results with:

- Bad exact-match domains.
- A lack of big name brands.
- Low-quality or outdated content.
- Pages with low link counts.

Here is an example of this type of SERP, for [Physics and Maths Tutor] for bad exact-math domain:

Google	Physics and Maths Tutor	اب م	Sign		
	Keyword difficulty: 70.61% (for google.co.uk database) — V Q All IVideos III News Ø Shoppin				
EOquake 🌔	About 13,900,000 results (0.71 seconds)				
<ul> <li>parameters</li> <li>SERP report</li> <li>Export CSV</li> <li>Sort this page ∧</li> <li>Locale ∧</li> </ul>	A privacy reminder fro	om Google	X Related Keywords Export to CSV Keyword Load Metrics (uses 8 credits)		
	1. Physics & Maths Tutor https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com ▼ Revise GCSE//GCSEs and A-levels! Past pape worksheets and solution banks. O L: 681 O LD: 6.81K ▷ 1:13.7K @ Rank: 15.84	ers, exam questions by topic, revision notes,	physics and maths tutor physics physics and maths tutor solution bank physics and maths tutor chemistry physics and maths tutor biology physics and maths tutor maths physics and maths tutor questions by topic physics and maths tutor economics aqa physics and maths tutor		
	O Rank: 88.6K O Adv Disp Ads: 0 O Pub Disp Ads: 10		Keywords Everywhere Is Now A Paid Tool		
	Chemistry Revision AQA - OCR - CIE IGCSE Chemistry - Edexcel - AQA GCSE -	Maths Revision Revision notes, summary sheets with key points, checklists	People Also Search For Export to CSV		

#### 2. Establish passive link acquisition channels

Link building is really hard.

Link acquisition is a manual process that is ongoing, forever. My favorite description of link building came from former Googler Matt Cutts, who defined it as "sweat, plus creativity."

Because securing links is so difficult — and we knew we needed links to grow traffic — we sought to establish passive link acquisition channels to amplify all our link-building efforts.

Part of our content strategy was to use high-quality, original photography, and this provided a perfect opportunity to attract passive links. Rather than copyrighting or watermarking our photos, we decided to use a <u>Creative Commons</u> <u>license</u> that allowed others to use the photos as long as they linked back to their original source (on our site).

For example, in the screen shot below, Check snap of ahref to check backlink profile of <u>www.guidetuition.com</u>

	Alerts Site explorer Content explorer Ke		acker Site audit More 🔻				
Overview	www.guidetuttion.com/+						
Backlink profile <del>•</del> Backlinks • New • Lost • Broken	Ahrefs Rank <sup>1</sup> 4,319,546	28 Backlinks	Referring domains <sup>i</sup> 1 <b>6000</b>	Organic keywo 188 -26 PPC 0	ords <sup>i</sup> Organic traffic <sup>i</sup> 20k +1	Traffic value \$52 PPC \$0	
Referring domains <ul> <li>New</li> <li>Lost</li> </ul>	Backlink profile Organic search Paid search						
Anchors Referring IPs	Ahrefs Rank <sup>i</sup>	Past 3 months			Live links i	•	
nternal backlinks NEW Link intersect	Today 4,319,546 †119,799 avg 7 days 4,434,839 †43,614			4.0M	Crawled pages i	150	
Drganic search v Drganic keywords	avg 1 month 4,473,683 t122,352 avg 3 months 4,581,570 t222,714			4.5M	Referring domains i	59 100%	
<ul> <li>New</li> <li>Movements</li> </ul>		Aug Sep	Oct	5.0M	Dofollow i Governmental i	37 63% 0 0%	
op pages 🤚	Referring domains i Live LINKS		All time One year L	ast 30 days	Educational	0 0%	
op subfolders NEW op subdomains					.gov	0 0%	
ompeting domains				100	.edu	0 0%	
competing pages			Annu a	75	.com	37 63%	
Content gap 🤚			J The I	15	.net	4 7%	

Even massive publications like these need great photos and often turn to Creative Commons or other sites to do that.

Along with having your images cited, other potential ways to earn links organically include:

- Sponsorships and community involvement.
- Compiling original data or research.
- Being interviewed or quoted.
- Building a unique tool.

The key is to create something original, and then make it easy for others to cite Nepso (link to) you as the original source.

# 3. Strategic content creation

Content drives SEO success

It's possible to secure a few links to bottom-of-the-funnel pages, but you'll need middle and top-of-the-funnel content to sustainably capture attention and links.

Creating useful content for your audience is always a sound strategy, but you can take it a step further by being intentional and strategic about the content you publish.

We maintained a relentless focus on SEO — creating every page with search, and the opportunities available to us, in mind.

To determine opportunity, we compared SEMrush traffic value against competition level.

Using the **"Foods that boost brain power**" example, we can analyze potential opportunities. For example, this blog is ranking number one, which SEMrush estimates is worth \$12K:

->>> semrush	Fea	itures Pricing Help News I Academy Community 🕒 Company 🕶 Marketplace	EN 🔻 👤 🕶						
All Tools	~	Organic Research v     https://www.guidetuition.com/foods-that-boost-brain-power/     Subfolder v     Search     Projects     +	📜 Upgrade						
1 Dashboard		Dashboard > Domain Analytics > Organic Research 📮 Send Feedback 👂							
Domain Analytics Overview	^	Organic Research: guidetuition.com							
Organic Research	I UK I UK I US Device: I Desktop V Date: Nov 9, 2019 V Currency: USD								
Backlinks		Overview Positions Position Changes Competitors Pages Subdomains							
Advertising Research									
PLA Research		A We're showing the data for guidetuition.com. Data for URL, subdomains and subfolders is only available for paid users. See plans and pricing							
Display Advertising									
Traffic Analytics		Keywords i Traffic i Traffic i Sk -10.26% · Traffic Cost i S12 -60.0% · Traffic Cost i S12 -60.0% · Traffic i 35 -10.26%							
Ranks									
Domain vs. Domain		Top Organic Keywords : Top Position Changes :							
Charts		Data is shown for guidetuition.com domain Data is shown for guidetuition.com domain							
Keyword Analytics	~								
Projects	~	Keyword Pos. Diff. Volume Traffic.%							
Marketing Insights	~	guide tuition         1         1         0         30         40.00         Keyword         Pos.         Diff.         Volume           a level maths tuition centre         3         3         0         90         22.85         Image: Control of the second							
Gan Analysis	~		ave a Suggestion?						

4. Leveling up over time

Momentum is key in SEO.

As you build traction with your campaign, SEO tends to have a multiplying effect where your results will build exponentially. As you earn more visibility in search, you begin to attract more visitors — and if you satisfy the needs of those visitors, they will keep coming back (increasing traffic), endorsing your website (links) and sharing how great you are with others (social media, blogs, podcasts and so on).

We recognized our site was building momentum, and after six months of work, we started to raise expectations. We began to target more competitive spaces (which we avoided at the start), and because we had built a strong foundation, we were successful.

We established a solid baseline of authority and trust with our site, giving us the ability to compete for higher-value terms. Seeing early returns, we began taking even bigger bets on the content we created - not only investing in original design and photography but also adding interactive elements such as custom tools and video.

For example, in this screen shot you can see the payoff:



Recap

We didn't use any secret tricks or hacks to grow traffic. Rather, we invested in building quality content, and we implemented various link acquisition strategies to match each stage of the project. As the site grew, so did our expectations and goals.

To recap, here's our process for growing traffic:

- 1. Start slow and take advantage of "easy wins."
- 2. Focus on securing a handful of strategic links to important pages.
- 3. Establish passive link acquisition channels to build momentum.
- 4. Be intentional about content creation and its impact on search.
- 5. Level up over time, and target higher-value opportunities.

This is a repeatable, scalable process that we've found to be effective. Of course, you will need to tweak and adjust this process a bit to fit your unique situation and needs.

However, I hope you can take the key lessons we learned from this project and apply them to your own strategy.



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