10

Things to Do Now to Write a Book

Your first ten steps from “I want to write a book” to a book you finish and publish.



The Write Practice

thewritepractice.com

Do you want to write a book?

Is this the year you finally do it? The ten steps below are your first steps to writing your book and getting it into readers' hands. Print this page, put it by your desk, and check off each one as you go.

- [ ] **1. Create your intention**

When, where, and how long will you write each day? Write out your intention. If you plan ahead right now, you're much more likely to follow through. Then share it with other writers in our free community: community.thewritepractice.com.

- [ ] **2. Find an accountability partner**

Find one person you trust and ask them to hold you accountable to your intention.

- [ ] **3. Write a premise**

Who is your character? What is their goal? What (or who!) is stopping them, and what will happen when they reach it? Describe these fundamental elements of your story in just one sentence. Our free premise tool can help: thewritepractice.com/free/short-story-idea.

- [ ] **4. Get feedback**

Find three people you trust and share your premise with them. Do they want to hear the rest of the story? Or do they have ideas to make it even more exciting?

- [ ] **5. Read your competition**

Find three books like the one you're writing and read them. They'll keep you inspired as you write.

- [ ] **6. Create an outline**

Write down everything you know about what will happen in your book. Your outline can be as detailed or as sparse as you like, but take time to think through your entire book from start to finish.

- [ ] **7. Write your first chapter**

This is it: start writing! Sit down at your desk, open your word processor, and write your first chapter.

- [ ] **8. Build your author website**

The first step to publishing your book to a crowd of raving fans is an author website. Our complete guide: thewritepractice.com/building-an-author-website.

- [ ] **9. Publish something small**

Before you publish your book, gather your readers by publishing something small: a blog post, a short story, or even a deleted scene from your book.

- [ ] **10. Don't quit**

A book takes months, not days. You can't go work on something else, and you can't stop until your book is finished. Commit right now to finishing.