

The Ultimate Fiction Writing Checklist

1. Prewriting and Planning

- Do you have a clear idea or concept for your novel?
- Have you chosen a genre and target audience?
- Have you created character profiles for your main characters?
- Have you outlined the main plot points or story arc?
- Do you know your story's setting, time period, and tone?

2. Writing the First Draft

- Have you set a realistic writing schedule or word count goal?
- Are you allowing yourself to write without self-editing?
- Do you stay focused on completing scenes or chapters before editing?
- Are you tracking your progress in a journal or writing tracker?

3. Revising and Editing

- Have you identified plot holes or inconsistencies in your draft?
- Have you revised character development and arcs for growth or clarity?
- Have you improved pacing and dialogue?
- Have you removed unnecessary scenes or filler content?
- Have you edited for grammar, sentence structure, and tone?

4. Getting Feedback

- Have you selected beta readers or a critique group?
- Did you ask specific questions for feedback?
- Have you incorporated useful feedback into your revisions?
- Did you proofread again after making changes?

5. Publishing and Promotion

- Have you decided between self-publishing and traditional publishing?
- If self-publishing, have you formatted your manuscript for ebook and print?
- Have you designed or hired a professional cover designer?

Do you have an author website and/or social media presence?

Have you planned a launch or promotion strategy?