**How to Publish a Book!**

There are two ways to publish a book—Traditional Publishing and Independent Publishing.

**Traditional Publishing** is when a publishing company pays an author for the right to make their story into a book and sell it.

**Independent Publishing** is when an author sells their book on their own. Think of independent publishing like YouTube for the written word.

**Traditional Publishing—The “Typical” Process**

I say *typical* process because there are always stories of authors selling their books to publishers in unique ways—like the 15-year-old bestselling author, [Christopher Paolini](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/answer-sheet/wp/2014/11/10/the-education-of-a-best-selling-teenage-author/), who you can read about by clicking on the link or by googling. His story is VERY inspirational.

**Step One**-Write the Draft (and rewrite it until it is as good as you can make it).

**Step Two**-Query Agents.

Query means sending a business letter to multiple agents to telling them about your book. You can read more about what [literary agents](https://www.writersdigest.com/publishing-insights/how-to-find-a-literary-agent-finding-agents-appropriate-for-your-writing) do, [how to write a query letter](https://www.writersdigest.com/getting-published/tips-on-writing-query-letters-to-publishers-and-literary-agents), and [querying advice](https://www.andreabrownlit.com/submission-advice.html) by clicking on the link or doing a simple online search. Or do both!

If you love writing, researching how books are made is super fun. It might introduce you to aspects of publishing you might not know about, like cover illustration, editing, copy editing, publicity, book sales, marketing, book reviewing or other jobs in publishing.

**Step Three**-Let your agent sell your book.

**Independent Publishing**

Independent publishing is an exciting opportunity if you want to sell your book yourself. You get to decide everything—where to sell it, the format (e-book, paper, both!), and the cover. You also have to do everything required to get it in the hands of readers—design the cover, do all the editing (or supervise the process), and the marketing (how readers will find out about your book). That sounds like a lot, but you can do it!

**Step One**—Write the book

**Step Two**—Design the cover or ask someone really good at art to design it for you.

In traditional publishing, the author works with a team of people to create their book. If you are independently publishing, don’t be afraid to ask for help and gather your team.

**Step Three**—Decide where to sell your book.

[Amazon](https://kdp.amazon.com/en_US/), [Kobo](https://www.kobo.com/us/en/p/writinglife?utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=smt&gclid=Cj0KCQiA-aGCBhCwARIsAHDl5x-sEzihNwsIM4j5aFm68HYQz-IZ4vhbW0fBuz-7eL4cQxW-j0MVusQaAr7UEALw_wcB), [iBooks Author](https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT201183) (and there are more) allow writers to publish and sell their books online. It gets kind of techy, but don’t be intimidated. All the sites have step-by-step instructions. Remember, just because you are “self-publishing” doesn’t mean you have to go it alone. Build your team and ask for help. Like anything in life, publishing is about collaboration! And that is super fun!

**Step Four**—Market your book.

Tell all your friends and family. Ask them to spread the word that you have a new book out. If you’re on social media, let your social media followers know all about your accomplishment. Publishing a book is a big deal! Shout it from the rooftops & tell everyone you know.

**How to be a Writer**

If you write, you are a writer. Even if you only write a couple of sentences on the back of a scrap of paper, you’re a writer. If you hear words in your head you want to write down; you’re a writer. If you dream of stories, you’re a writer. Writers write. They also daydream, read a lot, observe the world, see things in ways others don’t (which is everyone), like to talk, like to be alone, like to keep a journal, like to share stories…basically, a writer is any person with a story to tell (which is everyone).

**Some tips for cultivating your writing skills.**

Keep a [writer’s notebook](http://ralphfletcher.com/)

Keep a [nature journal](https://johnmuirlaws.com/)

Observe the way people interact

Daydream

Listen to music

Take a walk and let your mind wander

Spend a couple of minutes every day doing absolutely nothing

Read a lot

Create a blog

Write a social media post

Write short stories

Write poetry

Just live and observe the world