

7 Tips for Becoming a Better Writer by Buck Dopp

These tips will help you write better novels, stories, letters and emails.

- 1. Know Your message—What’s the main point you want to make?** What do you want people to remember after they’ve read it? Put it in one sentence or phrase. What’s your point?
- 2. Know Your Audience—Who will read this?** You’ll have a different approach if you’re writing this for your spouse or your boss or the general public or the experts in your field. Who are you writing for?
- 3. Outline—The outline can be simple and short; it will save you time.** The first thing author James Patterson tells school kids is to write an outline: for everything they write. He writes a 50-80- page outline for every novel he writes. Your outlines can be shorter—some of mine are on post it notes—and you don’t have to use Roman numerals. Just have a written plan.
- 4. First Draft—Let your imagination soar, but don’t correct or edit; just write.** Use your right brain which is where those words and phrases come. Your right brain is the free thinker, the idea man where your imagination comes from. Write down what comes to my mind. Don’t second-guess inspiration.
- 5. Revise—Rewrite your first draft until it says what you want it to say.** This is where you use your left brain. Your logic, your detail, your fact checker. This is where you correct your mistakes.
- 6. Proofread—When you’re finished, read it again and then read it out loud.** Nothing destroys your credibility faster than a bunch of mistakes.
- 7. Sleep on it—Wait a day before sending.** You’ll usually find something you missed. You can’t always do that, but almost everything you write could wait until tomorrow.

Kindle Direct Publishing (KDP)

- 1. Kindle Direct Publishing**--KDP lets you self-publish eBooks, paperbacks, and hardcover books for free. They will also help you market your book. Your book goes on sale on the Amazon website—the largest bookstore in the world! When someone buys your book, Amazon pays you a royalty directly into your checking account. You only pay for the books you want printed and you get them wholesale.
- 2. KDP Jumpstart**—KDP is basically a printer. The author is responsible for preparing the manuscript for publishing. Jumpstart will lead an author through the publishing process which includes book cover, design and formatting. Using this feature, an author can publish a book for free.
- 3. Editing Services**—For authors not interested in doing it all themselves, KDP recommends three editing services that will help you prepare your book for uploading: AMNET, Elite Authors and Kirkus.

Here are 7 ways to improve your writing, whether it's a novel, email or letter:

1. Know Your message—What's the main point you want to make?
2. Know Your Audience—Who will read this?
3. Outline—The outline can be simple and short; it will save you time.
4. First Draft—Let your imagination soar, but don't correct or edit; just write.
5. Revise—Rewrite your first draft until it says what you want it to say.
6. Proofread—When you're finished, read it again and then read it out loud.
7. Sleep on it—Wait a day before sending. You'll usually find something you missed.

KDP Jumpstart—Step by Step Instructions on How to Publish with Amazon's KDP

https://kdp.amazon.com/en_US/help/topic/G202187740

Editorial Services recommended by KDP

AMNET

<https://amnetauthorservices.com/>

Elite Authors

<https://eliteauthors.com/>

Kirkus

<https://www.kirkusreviews.com/editing-services/>

Three books on writing that have been very helpful to me:

“Bird by Bird” by Anne Lamott

“James Patterson” by James Patterson

“On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft” by Stephen King.

Final Things to Remember

- 1. You're never too young and you're never too old to start writing.**

I didn't publish my first book until I was 63.

- 2. Make your priority to become the best writer you can be rather than focusing at first on finding an agent, a publisher or making money. Concentrate first on the writing. Write every day. Make it a habit. If your writing is good, it will open doors for those things.**
- 3. When writing fiction, the quickest way to become a hack, is to write what you think will "sell" or will please others. Instead, write what's in your heart and listen to the voice in your head.**
- 4. Be willing to listen to feedback. Good suggestions will help you become a better writer. But remember, at the end of the day it's your writing not theirs. You make the final decision.**
- 5. Have fun. Enjoy the process. The enjoyment of life is the journey, not the destination.**