



Heading

You can use Pages for both word processing and page layout. This book template is set up for page layout so you can manually rearrange pages and freely position text boxes, images, and other objects on the page. When exported to EPUB, the layout of each page in your book will be maintained. This is best for image-heavy or multi-column books.

In word processing documents, your text flows from one page to the next as you type, with new pages created automatically when you reach the end of a page. When exported to EPUB, content can reflow to accommodate different devices and orientations. This is best for books containing primarily text. To create a word processing document, choose a portrait book template in the template chooser. You can also change this document to word processing on your Mac, iPad, or iPhone by turning on Document Body in the Document controls.

Tips from real authors on how to start writing

There's no wrong way to write. Whether you're starting a novel or drafting your memoir, many writers have a process that's as unique as the stories they tell. Draw from the strategies that other successful authors use to develop your own. There's no right or wrong way to start, as long as you're making progress.

"The blank page is the first major obstacle that any writer comes across. And it's an obstacle for reasons that seem to be opposite. One, there's just nothing there. It's empty. It's something that's... how do you approach nothing and create something?" said Walter Mosley, author of over 40 books. "And the best way to deal with such a major obstacle is to ignore that it's an obstacle and just start writing words."

Some writers embrace Mosley's approach, but others like to create an intricate plan before they even begin.

Regardless of your approach, it's helpful to make writing a daily habit. Consistency can be key to transforming an idea into a true first draft.

"I always say to new writers that you have to write every single day even if it's just for five minutes," said Aileen Erin, author of several series of popular Young Adult books.

"Once you get into a routine, have a habit building up the word count [until] it comes and starts to flow more and more and more. But writing every day is an excellent habit for every writer."

Successful authors often recommend writing anywhere and everywhere you can: at home, on your commute, in a waiting room, in the morning or late at night. Ideas can come anytime, so be prepared — keep a physical notebook, or take quick memos or voice memos in the Notes app on your Apple device.

"I've been in the position of writing for the last 20 years. I've written through everything," said Barbara Freethy, a best-selling author of romance novels. "I've written through having small kids, I've written in the parking lot of the baseball game, I've written in the dentist office."