



# WORD COUNTS

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A GUIDE TO STANDARD WORD COUNTS FOR BOOKS



The word count ranges that follow are based on current market research. Standards change as the publishing industry evolves.

Remember, rules are made to be broken; there are always exceptions.

# ADULT FICTION WORD COUNT RANGES

LITERARY NOVEL	70,000 – 110,000 WORDS
SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY	90,000 – 120,000 WORDS
HISTORICAL FICTION	90,000 – 110,000 WORDS
THRILLER	90,000 – 100,000 WORDS
MYSTERY & HORROR	70,000 – 90,000 WORDS
ROMANCE	50,000 – 90,000 WORDS
NOVELLA	20,000 – 40,000 WORDS
SHORT STORY	1,000 – 8,000 WORDS



# ADULT NONFICTION WORD COUNT RANGES

NONFICTION BOOK	50,000 – 100,000 WORDS
BIOGRAPHY	80,000 – 150,000 WORDS
MEMOIR	60,000 – 90,000 WORDS
TRAVEL & NATURE	40,000 – 70,000 WORDS
SELF-HELP & HOW-TO	20,000 – 50,000 WORDS

# CHILDREN'S FICTION

## WORD COUNT RANGES

PICTURE BOOKS (AGES 3-8)

50 - 800 WORDS

EARLY READERS (AGES 5-9)

200 - 3,500 WORDS

CHAPTER BOOKS (AGES 7-10)

10,000 - 12,000 WORDS

MIDDLE GRADE NOVELS (AGES 8-12)

20,000 - 25,000 WORDS

YOUNG ADULT FICTION (AGES 12+)

50,000 - 80,000 WORDS

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