

Are You Ready to be Published?

The following checklist can help you decide if you're ready to publish your book.

1. Have you determined if there is a viable market for your book? (yes) ___ (no) ___
2. Have you completed your research and listed all your sources in a bibliography? (yes) ___ (no) ___ (not applicable) ___
3. Have you gotten two to four manuscript reviews to use for your back cover blurbs? (yes) ___ (no) ___
4. Have you obtained written permission for all copyrighted materials, such as photographs, maps, charts or illustrations that you plan to include in your book or use on the cover? (yes) ___ (no) ___ (not applicable) ___
5. Have you used your spellchecker? (yes) ___ (no) ___
6. Have you decided how to publish your book, such as an eBook, self publishing, subsidy or traditional publishing? (yes) ___ (no) ___
7. Are you prepared to deal with the possibility of rejection letters or receiving bad reviews? (yes) ___ (no) ___
8. Are you willing to accept editorial changes? (yes) ___ (no) ___
9. Have you planned a budget to cover expenses such as software, editors, illustrators, graphic designers, book printers, publicists or any other out-of-pocket costs that may be necessary to publish your book? (yes) ___ (no) ___

Note: Grants or endowments may be available for those authors in need of financial assistance. Please visit fundsforwriters.com for more information.

10. Do you have a plan for marketing and promoting your book? (yes) ___ (no) ___

If your answer to any of these questions is no, then you're probably not ready to be published.

Successful book publishing is a team effort. You must be willing to work with others and be willing to at least consider whatever suggestions or advice they may offer you. You must remember that not everyone will like your book so rejection letters or bad reviews are always a possibility. You must have the financial means to cover all your expenses. You need to know if there is a market for your book and you should have a plan for promoting it. You also need to protect yourself from potential litigation by obtaining written permission before including any copyrighted material.