

WRITING EXERCISES

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For Speed (word count)

- Tough love: No getting up until there's 1000 words on the page.
- Use the * and keep writing. Don't look anything up or search for the perfect word.
- Keep moving forward. Stuck? Jump ahead.
- Write 15 minutes of every hour you're awake.
- Follow #writingsprint on Twitter (and do them).
- Steal time and use it!
- Keep a time-log of your writing.
- Set weekly "writing dates" with other people.
- Bribes: 1000 words gets you a cookie.
- Turn off the wifi on your laptop and silence your phone.
- Use a "Pomodoro Timer."
- Start with a direction in mind.
- Write at least 15 minutes in 5 different places.

For Quality (revision)

- Outline before (if you can)
- Do a chapter outline after. Does each chapter "pull its weight?"
- Read aloud.
- Use text to talk apps to have it read to you.
- Critique groups & partners
- Beta readers
- Note your "frequently used" words. "Find" them later.
- Keep a running "notes" file
- Look for doubled (or tripled) adverbs, adjectives, etc.
- Track each character arc
- Balance dialogue, description, action, internal thought
- Know if you're an "underwriter" or "overwriter," then cut or add accordingly
- Sensory details
- Get feedback. Take it seriously. Don't take all of it.