

# Types of Editors



## What do Editors do?



### Do you need an Editor?

Yes, every writer needs an editor. Editors read your writing with fresh eyes and the objectivity needed to identify clunky transitions, grammatical errors, and story inconsistencies.

### Is an Editor Worth the Money?

Early in your career money spent on editing is an investment in your writing future. When you work with an editor, you will learn things that you will take forward and apply to future works.

### What Sort of Editing do You Need?

Editing happens at various stages of the writing and publishing process. You will learn how to edit your manuscripts so they are as polished as possible before you send your work out into the world. However, sometimes you will need help.

Determining the type of help you need will assist you to find the right editor.

Here are the main types of editors and a description of how they can help you and your story:

### Structural, Substantive or Developmental Editor

These terms are often used interchangeably and refer to the most comprehensive type of edit. It is also the most expensive type of editing. A developmental editor considers every element of your manuscript, from the story itself to the “macro” elements like character, stakes, and plot; to the essential supporting elements like suspense and tension, momentum and pace, structure, point of view, setting, voice, etc. Some editors will work with you to develop your story idea into a first draft, and others will work with final drafts.

### Copy Editor

Copy editing fine-tunes text (text = copy). A copy editor will correct grammatical or punctuation errors, incorrect facts, anomalies, inconsistencies, and glaring typos. A copy editor will ensure your language supports your intent.

Copy editing does not address big-picture issues such as characterisation, plot, or pacing. They will make tone and style consistent throughout the story and pull your story together page by page.

### Proofreader

A proofreader performs a surface-level check on the final draft of a manuscript. They will detect spelling errors, grammatical mistakes, incorrect or missing punctuation, and typos; they may also review source text before translation.

### Line Editor

A line edit is much more than a proofread. Line editors work through your manuscript line-by-line. They focus on style, consistency, and overall readability. A line editor takes a microscope to your prose to help you make it elegant, eloquent, streamlined, and as effective as possible.