

Editors & What They Can Do For You

There are many reasons for a writer to use an editor. But that brings up the question, what kinds of editor do I need?

1. First, define what type of editing you want.
2. Second, know what each type of editor covers that a writer needs.

Choosing an Editor:

Whatever editor you choose, there are a few things you need to do before you sign a contract with them.

1. ASK FOR REFERENCES

- a. Hopefully not their relatives. Ask for something that was actually accepted by a publisher or went into self-print and TAKE A LOOK AT IT.
- b. If you could punctuate better then you don't want to use that editor.

2. CHECK OUT THE REFERENCES

- a. To get them isn't enough. Make sure they are legitimate references.

3. ASK THEM TO DO SAMPLE PAGES

- a. They may charge you a fee for this option, but should take that fee off the entire project fee if you choose to work with them.

4. CHECK THEM OUT ONLINE

5. MAKE SURE YOUR PERSONALITIES MESH.

- a. Working with an editor can be as hard as learning to live with a new spouse, so sit down with them or speak to them on the phone and let them explain why they suggested the changes they entered in your manuscript.

Proofreader:

The least expensive of all editors are the proofreaders. They are the least expensive because primarily they do the least in the way of actual editing. A proofreader puts the final polish on your manuscript. They make sure all your I's are dotted and your T's are crossed and that you entered all the copy editors changes correctly.

1. *You should not pay more than a few dollars a page, and this is the only step I would trust to a non-industry professional*
2. *To cut down on the cost of editing, this is where you can use the offered services of that friend who just happens to be an English teacher.*

Copy Editor:

A copy editor is the editor that addresses grammar problems in your work. They will look at sentence construction and may call your attention to content issues if they notice them. But

their job is to concentrate on grammar. This is a must-have step for all writers/authors. No author should do the final edit on their own work.

1. *These editors usually charge between \$2.00 & \$3.50 per page, or they can charge pennies per word.*

Content Editor:

A Content editor looks at how you put your story together. They go through the manuscript looking for inconsistencies, passive voice, and show don't tell. A content editor will tell you if the same character has different color eyes on different pages, without the mention of colored contacts. They should also look for industry no-no's like not having a fixed point of view in your story. They should make *suggestions* on how to correct the problems they see. They may not necessarily correct grammar all problems.

1. *This type of editor usually charges by the project and their fees can start around \$500 per project.*
2. *This is an option most new writers should use, because they tend to get excited over the work and can lose track.*

Substantive Editor:

A substantive editor will do all of the above. They can and should do everything mentioned in the previous paragraphs.

1. *Their fees can be substantial, and most start around \$800 to \$1,000 dollars.*
2. *If they don't do it all, you should not pay the full price for the service.*

Book Doctor:

A Book doctor will do all-of-the-above plus, they will help with rewrites up to, and including, ghostwriting your manuscript. They usually have contacts in the publishing worlds where they can help you market your completed project to an agent or publisher.

1. *This option starts with an evaluation by the Book Doctor that can run \$2,000+*
2. *If you take advantage of all a book doctor has to offer, it can run you as much as 10,000 to 25,000 dollars.*

Whatever kind of editor you choose, an editor is there to help you succeed. Don't take the edits personally; the editor is tweaking your work so that you present your best work to the public. **But, remember, an editor should never change the voice of the writer, just enhance his/her work.** The pricing listed here came from the Writer's Market that has been updated a few times since it's creation.