

## THE PUBLISHING LIFECYCLE

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This checklist includes the major activities a writer will most likely go through when publishing a book through a publishing house.

1. Query agents\* and/or editors
2. Submit partial or full manuscript, as requested
3. Receive offer of representation\* or contract
4. Review, negotiate, and sign contract
5. Make developmental edits to manuscript
6. Make line edits to manuscript
7. Make copy edits to manuscript
8. Proofread manuscript
9. Plan publicity for book release
10. Create cover(s) for e-book and print
11. Create Advance Reader Copy (ARC) for reviewers
12. Format book files (e-book, print)
13. Celebrate release day

Note: Steps 5-8 and steps 9-11 likely take place in parallel.

\*Agents aren't required for all publishing houses. Some publishers allow writers to directly query editors. If you do not have an agent and wish to acquire one, you'll follow the first three steps. Then, once you sign an offer of representation with an agent, the agent will represent you and guide you through the full publishing lifecycle.

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*The Tidy Guide to Self-Editing Your Novel* by Rachel Aukes

[www.RachelAukes.com](http://www.RachelAukes.com)

