

Types of Editors

There is a lot of overlap between different types of editors. Plus, a lot of editors do more than one type of editing. Knowing what you need before hiring an editor can help you find the best fit.

Traditional Publishing Specific

- Acquisitions Editor
- Managing Editor
- Associate Editor (usually magazine/newspaper specifically)

Indie and Traditional

Editorial Consulting

- The beginning stages of putting a book idea together.
- Deciding if your ideas are solid, substantial enough for an entire book or would they be better in a different format.
- Helping you ensure that your work is different from what's already on the market or known to be in the works.

Developmental/Substantive Editor

- This type of editing for fiction involves broad changes such as overall plot, world building, character descriptions and personalities, pacing, voice, story structure, and dialogue.
- Developmental editing can tell you which chapters to cut, which paragraphs need to be moved, and what scenes need to be expanded.
- If you're concerned about the big picture, a developmental edit will help you restructure and reorganize, trimming down the areas that distract from the manuscript's major themes and plot-lines while tightening up your pace and making your dialogue feel more natural.

Copyeditor

- Correcting grammar, syntax, punctuation, and spelling
- Making your text conform either to a style sheet you provide or one that is created for you.
- Checks cross-references and other mechanics of style, internal consistency of facts and presentation.
- Copyediting is concerned with sentence level changes and can range from a light to a heavy copyedit. The light and medium edit focus mostly on mechanical issues.
- Is **NOT** the same as a proofreader

Line Editor

- A heavy copyedit can sometime be called a line edit. This is a contentious and often confusing part of editing terminology.
- A heavy edit or line edit is going through a manuscript line by line
- Includes more intervention at the sentence and paragraph level, such as cutting wordiness and repetition, moving material from text to notes, and generally polishing and clarifying each sentence.
- Does not address overall structural issues that a substantive editor would.

Proofreader

- **NOT** the same as copyediting
- Proofreading provides a final check of the electronic file for minor mistakes in spelling, punctuation, spacing, and so on, before the manuscript, article, ad copy, or web content is published.
- Professional eye to catch the inevitable text glitches and typos that will be invisible to your own eye.
- Proofreading is also a necessary final step after the book has been set in type and before it goes to press. It ensures that the published version precisely matches the final edited draft.

Children's Books

- Board books, picture books, and early readers have a slightly different editorial process than a book that is all text.
- Wide range of ages considered Children's books.
- Chapter books and young adult books usually go through the same editorial process as adult books.
- Art direction and critique is often part of the editor's job.
- Often working with two people, the author and illustrator. Understanding their dynamic is important.