

Write a 50,000-Word Novel in 30 Days

A daily word tracker, one prompt for every day of November, and what 50,000 words turn into on paper. Print it, pin it up, fill it in.

The plan

1,667 words a day gets you to 50,000 on November 30. Writing at about 20 words a minute, that is roughly 80 minutes a day — two 40-minute sessions.

Fall behind? Do not catch up in one day. Add 300 words a day to the next week and the gap closes without a marathon.

What 50,000 words become

Manuscript, Times New Roman 12 pt, double-spaced	156 pages
Paperback, 6" × 9"	132 pages
Paperback, 5.5" × 8.5"	160 pages
Reading time at 260 words a minute	about 3 h 12 min

50,000 words is the shortest a novel can be by the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers Association's yardstick (40,000+). Most published adult novels run 70,000–100,000, so this is a strong first draft, not the last one.

Rules that keep you going

- ☐ Write forward. No rereading yesterday's pages until December.
- ☐ Stuck on a scene? Write [SCENE WHERE THEY ESCAPE] in brackets and move on.
- ☐ Same time, same place every day; the habit does the work.
- ☐ Count words at the end of the session, not during it.

November Word Count

Day	Target total	Words today	My total	Done
Nov 1	1,667			
Nov 2	3,333			
Nov 3	5,000			
Nov 4	6,667			
Nov 5	8,333			
Nov 6	10,000			
Nov 7	11,667			
Nov 8	13,333			
Nov 9	15,000			
Nov 10	16,667			
Nov 11	18,333			
Nov 12	20,000			
Nov 13	21,667			
Nov 14	23,333			
Nov 15	25,000			
Nov 16	26,667			
Nov 17	28,333			
Nov 18	30,000			
Nov 19	31,667			
Nov 20	33,333			
Nov 21	35,000			
Nov 22	36,667			
Nov 23	38,333			
Nov 24	40,000			
Nov 25	41,667			
Nov 26	43,333			
Nov 27	45,000			
Nov 28	46,667			
Nov 29	48,333			
Nov 30	50,000			

One Prompt a Day

They follow the shape of a story from first scene to last, so writing one a day carries a draft from opening to ending. Skip any that do not fit your book.

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| Nov 1 | Who wants what. Write the first scene in which your main character wants something badly and does one thing to get it. End before they know if it worked. |
| Nov 2 | An ordinary day. Show the ordinary world your hero is about to lose. Let one small detail in it be wrong. |
| Nov 3 | The voice. Write a page in which your hero argues with someone they love and is partly in the wrong. |
| Nov 4 | The door opens. Something arrives — a letter, a stranger, a phone call — that makes staying the same impossible. |
| Nov 5 | The refusal. Your hero says no. Write why the reason sounds good to them and weak to the reader. |
| Nov 6 | Crossing over. Write the moment there is no way back. Make it a choice, not an accident. |
| Nov 7 | First week done. Write the scene you have been avoiding. You are at about 11,700 words if you kept pace. |
| Nov 8 | New rules. Your hero is in unfamiliar territory. Show one rule of this new world they learn the hard way. |
| Nov 9 | An ally. Introduce someone who helps for reasons of their own. Hint at what those reasons are. |
| Nov 10 | An enemy. Write the antagonist doing something kind. Then show why it does not make them safe. |
| Nov 11 | A small win. Give your hero a victory that will cost them later. Let the reader suspect it. |
| Nov 12 | Fun and games. Write the scene a reader picked this book for — the premise doing exactly what it promised. |
| Nov 13 | A secret. One character knows something the hero does not. Write a conversation where it almost comes out. |
| Nov 14 | Nearly halfway. About 23,300 words: write the midpoint. Something the hero believed turns out to be false. |
| Nov 15 | Raising the stakes. The cost of failing doubles. Show who else now stands to lose. |

The Second Half

Nov 16	The bad guys close in. Write the antagonist's plan working. Skip the hero for a page if you need to.
Nov 17	Cracks. The hero and their ally fall out. Both of them are a little right.
Nov 18	Unearned rest. Write a quiet scene — a meal, a drive, a night — where the tension is under the surface.
Nov 19	The fall. Take away the thing your hero relies on most: a person, a tool, a belief.
Nov 20	Rock bottom. Write your hero at their lowest. No rescue in this scene.
Nov 21	Three weeks. About 35,000 words. Write the scene where the hero finally sees what they have been doing wrong.
Nov 22	A new plan. The hero decides to try again, differently. Show the plan in action, not in summary.
Nov 23	Gathering. Bring the allies back together. One of them refuses to come.
Nov 24	The way in. Write the approach to the final confrontation. Every page should feel like a countdown.
Nov 25	The confrontation. Write the climax. The hero wins or loses because of who they have become, not luck.
Nov 26	The twist of the knife. Victory costs something. Write what is lost.
Nov 27	Aftermath. Show the world after the climax. What changed, and what stubbornly did not.
Nov 28	The last image. Write an image that mirrors your opening scene, changed.
Nov 29	Loose threads. Go back to the ally who refused to come, or the secret from day 13, and close it.
Nov 30	The end. Finish. Write the last line, then the words THE END. Count your words.

After November

Let the draft rest two weeks before you reread it. Then the Words to Pages and Cover Size calculators on bookbird.io tell you what it prints at.