

What does an editor actually do?



The editor's job is to make sure the writer gets their message across. What that means depends a lot on the specifics of the project, and on the needs of the writer.

I offer four tiers of service, each focused on a slightly different set of priorities:

Proofreading

Check your work for errors and ensure formatting and style are consistent throughout. e.g.:

- Typos, spelling mistakes and grammatical errors
- Missing or misused punctuation
- Consistent formatting (fonts, quotation styles, numbering, etc.)
- Data accuracy*
- Citation standards*

* Must be arranged on an individual basis, and may require additional supporting material (e.g. fact-sheets, style guides etc.)

Proofreading would suit a writer who has a finished piece and wants to ensure it's error-free and ready to publish.

Copyediting

Suggest edits to improve clarity and overall reader comprehension. e.g.:

- Typos, spelling mistakes and grammatical errors
- Clarity and flow
- Tone, voice and impact
- Consistent style and formatting
- Informational accuracy
- Sensitivity reading on certain topics*

* Must be arranged on an individual basis. Note that I may be unable to support with certain topics that lie outside my areas of experience.

Copyediting would suit a writer who has a near-final draft, who wants to tidy up wording and make sure their intended message comes across.

Line editing

Suggest in-line edits, content changes and structural adjustments to support the overall intended effect of the piece. e.g.:

- Clarify and flow
- Tone, voice and impact
- Pacing and structure
- Key themes, messages and ideas
- (Fiction) Character and setting
- (Fiction) Plot and genre elements
- Tailored feedback to support your development as a writer

Line editing would suit a writer who has a complete draft and would like more in-depth support to hone the overall quality of their work.

This service is popular with fiction writers.

Creative coaching

Work closely with you throughout the planning and development of your work, assisting with creative and narrative choices to produce the strongest possible final product. e.g.:

- Concept exploration to identify creative opportunities
- Character, setting, and theme (fiction)
- Effective narrative structure and 'hooks'
- Understanding and strengthening your unique authorial voice

Creative coaching would suit a writer who wants personal feedback, inspiration and support to help steer development of a specific piece of work from the early stages through to completion.

How much will it cost?



Since every job is a little different, pricing has to be tailored to the project. More technical material or time-intensive needs will cost more than a straightforward job. These baselines should give you an idea of what to expect as an individual client:

Proofreading

£30/hr

(roughly £15 per 1k words)

Copyediting

£35/hr

(roughly £26.25 per 1k words)

Line editing

£37/hr

(see note on timescales below)

Creative coaching

per project

(see note on timescales below)

How long will it take?

Timelines vary based on the length and complexity of the work, as well as my current capacity. If you're working to a tight deadline, or a schedule that doesn't fit these baselines, please get in touch and I'll be happy to discuss flexible or out-of-hours working patterns for additional cost.

Proofreading & Copyediting

1 week up to 30k words **2 weeks** up to 60k words

Timescale estimates for longer work are available on request. Current availability and lead time can be checked at mortalityplays.com/enquiries.

Line editing

Timescales are estimated on a case-by-case basis, tailored to the priorities and budget of the project. This type of editing often involves multiple passes, and it's up to you how long and in-depth you'd like the process to be.

Creative coaching

This is a longer-term editorial relationship, which may involve multiple days of work spread out over months or even years. Rather than charge by the hour or day, I would work with you to agree fixed fees per service.

Note: These are rough guidelines for individual clients. Please contact me directly for organisational quotes.

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