

# How Much Should a Writer Read?

Reading is your apprenticeship. Here's a plan.

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I'm always a little taken aback when someone who wants to be a writer says that they don't really read much. Or, sometimes, at all.

The answer to how much should a writer read is *as much as you can*. Good books. Bad books. Novels. Non-fiction. Blog posts. Newspapers and magazines. Whatever.

If you want to be a writer, your job is to learn how to master words.

You need to see how words are put together, when it's done properly.

Think about reading as your apprenticeship.

It's easy to dismiss someone who doesn't read as someone who really doesn't care about being a writer.

How can someone who doesn't love books really want to create them?

I don't think that's quite right. Or fair.

Reading is a learned skill. No one is born with it. If you don't enjoy reading, it's almost definitely because you haven't done enough of it. The more you read, the faster and more efficiently you'll be able to read.

Wanting to be a writer isn't enough. You have to learn how to do it. And you do that, in large part, by reading.

Ray Bradbury believed that all you really needed to learn how to be a good writer was a library card. His advice was to read a poem, an essay, and a short story every day for a thousand days.

I think that's a good place to start.

Add in a couple of books a month, to start. [Get an Audible account](#) and listen to one more. They'll give you two free books to start.

And while you're reading, pay attention to what you like and what you don't like. [Read like a writer.](#)