



Uploading To KDP

KDP updates its dashboard and upload process from time to time, so the exact layout or wording you see may differ slightly from what's described here. The core steps, however, remain the same: provide your book's details, upload your files, set your pricing, and publish. Think of this as a guide to the flow rather than a pixel-perfect map.

A Quick Prompt to Get You Started

Ask yourself: *Do I have all my files and metadata ready before I begin?*

Uploading is smoothest when everything is prepared in advance.

Create a New Title

When you log into KDP, you'll see an option to create a new Kindle Ebook, Paperback, or Hardback. Each format is uploaded separately, but the information you provide will be similar.

You'll choose:

- Language
- Book title and subtitle
- Series information (if applicable)
- Edition number (usually left blank unless you're updating a previous edition)
- Author name
- Contributors (optional)

This section is straightforward, it's simply the book's identity.

Enter Your Book Description

Paste in your blurb. KDP allows basic formatting (bold, italics, line breaks), but keep it clean. Over-formatting can look messy on the product page.

Tip

Paste your description into a plain-text editor first to remove hidden formatting.

Verify Publishing Rights

You'll be asked whether you own the rights to the book. If it's your original work, choose "I own the copyright."

Choose Categories and Keywords

This is where your earlier metadata work pays off.

You'll enter:

- Keywords (up to seven)
- Categories (two main categories)
- Age range (for children's books)

Choose categories that genuinely match your book, this affects discoverability and bestseller lists.

Upload Your Manuscript

For Ebooks:

- Upload your EPUB file.
- KDP will run a quick check and generate a preview.

For print:

- Upload your PDF (with correct trim size, margins, and bleed).
- Review the print preview carefully, this is where most issues appear.

Look for:

- missing page numbers
- incorrect margins
- cut-off text
- blank pages you didn't intend

Take your time here. Fixing issues now prevents headaches later.

Upload Your Cover

For Ebooks:

- Upload a front-only JPG or PNG.

For print:

- Upload your full wrap PDF (front, spine, back).
- Ensure the spine width matches your final page count.

KDP will show you a preview of how the cover fits the template.

ISBN (Print Only)

You can:

- Use a free KDP ISBN, or
- Enter your own if you purchased one.

Remember: the publisher of record will be whoever owns the ISBN.

Pricing and Territories

You'll choose:

- Primary marketplace (e.g., Amazon.co.uk or Amazon.com)
- List price
- Royalty rate (35% or 70% for Ebooks, depending on price and region)
- Territories (usually "All territories" unless you have specific rights limitations)

KDP will automatically calculate prices for other regions.

Publish

Once everything is complete, click Publish. KDP will review your book, usually within 24–72 hours, and notify you when it's live.

A Simple Exercise

Before you upload, create a one-page checklist titled "KDP Upload Ready."

Include:

- final EPUB
- final print PDF
- cover files
- blurb
- categories
- keywords
- ISBN
- pricing plan

Ticking each item off makes the upload process feel calm and controlled.

A Final Thought

Uploading to KDP isn't a test, it's a process. The interface may shift, buttons may move, and options may be renamed, but the essentials stay the same: clear information, clean files, and a steady pace. Once you've done it once, every future upload feels easier.

It's easy to upload amendments later (for example you spot a missed typo) and the KDP process doesn't ask questions that you wouldn't expect.