

Ebook Formatting

Software

- MS Word (or facsimile thereof)
- HTML editor
- Calibre — convert HTML to Kindle (.mobi) or epub format (free download)
- Sigil — edit epub — but not Kindle/.mobi (free download)
- EPUB Validator — online: <http://validator.idpf.org>
- Kindle Previewer (free download)
- Nook Previewer (free download)
- Kindle and Nook for PC (free download)

Tips and Traps

- MS Word 2003 (not 2007 or newer: **Save as . . . Word 2003**)
- Delete headers, footers, and page numbers
- Use **Styles** to format paragraphs and headings — set fonts and indents
 - Do **NOT** use fancy fonts — the reader controls font style and size
 - Do **NOT** use Space Bar or Tabs to indent or center text
- Use Word to automatically create Table of Contents with embedded hyperlinks
- You can upload a Word file, but not recommended — historically, fraught with errors
 - CreateSpace will suggest using your print book PDF to create an ebook — **NOT** recommended, as it will look like crap
- Save as HTML (filtered)
- Use HTML editor (or Notepad, or text editor) to edit Styles as needed
- View in Web browser as preliminary check
- Convert to epub format using Calibre
- Test in Sigil and check for errors
- Check epub with EPUB Validator
- Correct errors in Sigil
- View in Nook for PC
- Use Calibre to Convert .epub to .mobi (or upload epub to KDP)
- View in Kindle Previewer and Kindle for PC (or Kindle device)
- Correct errors as needed
- Upload to vendor
- Top vendor for ebook sales = KDP/Amazon
 - Also Smashwords (distributes to Barnes & Noble Nook, Apple iBooks, Kobo, Sony and others)

Images

- Cover image = JPEG 2500 pixels in height, width proportional
- Embedded images = JPEGs or PNG — size requirements vary depending on platform, but they should be formatted for the Web, not print; Kindle more forgiving than Nook or Apple iBooks. You will have to experiment to see what works best.

