

The print-PDF checklist

StoriesDen

A printer can reject a PDF that looks perfect on screen. Work down this list before you upload your interior, in this order. Your printer's own spec sheet always wins: where a number matters, the list tells you where to look rather than guessing for you.

Book: _____

Printer: _____

Trim size: _____

BEFORE YOU FORMAT

- ☐ Trim size chosen, and it's one your printer and storefronts offer
- ☐ Paper type chosen (white or cream), since it changes the spine width
- ☐ Your printer's spec sheet open: margins, gutter, bleed, file format

PAGE LAYOUT

- ☐ Margins meet the printer's minimum on all four sides
- ☐ Gutter (inside margin) sized for your page count; thicker books need more
- ☐ Bleed added only if images or color run to the edge of the page
- ☐ Chapters start where you want them (right-hand page or next page)
- ☐ No headers or page numbers on blank pages and chapter openers
- ☐ Front matter in order: title page, copyright page, dedication, contents

TEXT

- ☐ Widows and orphans fixed (single lines stranded at the top or bottom of a page)
- ☐ No stray blank pages in the middle of the book
- ☐ Hyphenation and justification checked on a few sample pages
- ☐ Final page count noted for the cover designer (it sets the spine width)

IMAGES

- ☐ Images at the resolution your printer asks for (often 300 dpi at printed size)
- ☐ Color mode and grayscale match what the printer expects

EXPORT

- ☐ All fonts embedded in the PDF
- ☐ PDF exported with the standard or preset your printer names
- ☐ Page size in the PDF matches the trim size (plus bleed, if used)
- ☐ File opened and checked one last time, page by page

BEFORE YOU APPROVE

- ☐ Printer's online previewer shows no errors
- ☐ Printed proof copy ordered and read on paper

Page count: _____ Paper: white / cream Bleed: yes / no Spine width from the printer: _____