



10 Things I Wish I Knew Before I Started Writing:

1. **Before you become a writer**, become a reader. Read as many different books as possible. Not just the genre you plan to write, but others outside your comfort zone to see various styles of writing.
2. **Be yourself.** There are more than enough different types of readers out there for us all. Know your voice and stick with it.
3. **Embrace the journey** and take your time. It's *your* book – and one of the best things about being an independent publisher is you can take as long as you need to make it perfect.
4. **No writing is horrid:** it's all practice, and it's all invaluable. Try not to edit every line as it emerges. Work on getting your ideas out first.
5. **Write regularly.** Write consistently. Write even when you don't want to write. Keep a regular schedule if that works for you. Write at 3am, if you'd like. Just write.
6. **Stick to your guns.** Follow your instincts regardless of what others tell you. Take advice only if it feels right to you, not because you think that person knows best. They don't, you know best. Trust yourself.
7. **Share your work.** Writing can be a very solitary thing: it's a personal pursuit, and you pour a lot of yourself into your work. The idea of sharing that with just anybody (or even your friends and family) can be scary, but you cannot write in a vacuum. Join a writer's group!
8. **Don't chase after** famous writers so they'll blurb your book – the one you wrote that's soon to be published or the one you're sure you will write one of these days. It's not cool, and they'll know you're doing it.
9. **Buy your own ISBN** (International Standard Book Number). A complete list of sellers is [here](#).
10. **Remember:** The only true failure... is in giving up.



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