

## The Daily Word Counts of 39 Famous Authors

Author	Words	Quotation by author
<b>Anne Rice</b>	3 000	I have to get all distractions out of the way. I plunge into the work and write an episode; I can't just clock in at 3 000 words. I have to have time free to resolve things. I write in episodic ways. But when I'm ready to plunge in, I write from late morning through all afternoon, all evening.
<b>Anthony Trollope</b>	3 000	I write with my watch before me, to require of myself 250 words every quarter of an hour. I have found that the 250 words have been forthcoming as regularly as my watch went.
<b>Arthur Conan Doyle</b>	3 000	Anything is better than stagnation.
<b>Arthur Hailey</b>	600	I set myself 600 words a day as a minimum output, regardless of the weather, my state of mind or if I'm sick or well. There must be 600 finished words-not almost right words.
<b>Barbara Kingsolver</b>	1 000	I tend to wake up extremely early with words flooding into my brain. If I don't get up, they'll continue to accumulate in puddles, so it's a relief to get to the keyboard and dump them out.
<b>Carol Shields</b>	600	I would give myself one or two pages a day, and if I didn't get to my two pages, I would get into bed at night with one of those thick yellow tablets of lined paper, and I would do two quick pages and then turn off the light. I did this for nine months, and at the end of nine months, I had a novel.
<b>Charles Hamilton</b>	4 000	The business of a boys' author is not to consider political issues, but to entertain the readers, make them as happy as possible.
<b>Erle Stanley Gardner</b>	3 000	The real trouble with the writing game is that no general rule can be worked out for uniform guidance, and this applies to sales as well as to writing.
<b>Ernest Hemingway</b>	500	I had learned already never to empty the well of my writing, but always to stop when there was still something there in the deep part of the well, and let it refill at night from the springs that fed it.
<b>Frederick Forsyth</b>	3 000	Twelve pages a day, 3,000 words, seven days a week. But it's the research that takes the time. And, yes, I have to force myself to write. Sounds ungrateful, I know.
<b>Graham Greene</b>	500	Over twenty years I have probably averaged five hundred words a day for five days a week. I can produce a novel in a year, and that allows time for revision and the correction of the typescript. I have always been very methodical, and when my quota of work is done I break off, even in the middle of a scene.
<b>Holly Black</b>	1 000	I try to write a thousand words every day. I've actually put up my daily word counts online for my last several novels. I do this to keep myself honest, saying exactly when I wrote what part of the book.
<b>Iain Banks</b>	3 000	I'm very self-disciplined, actually. It's easy because I've always been able to write lots and lots of words really quickly. I can write about 3,000 words a day.
<b>Ian McEwan</b>	600	I aim for about six hundred words a day and hope for at least a thousand when I'm on a roll.
<b>J.G. Ballard</b>	1 000	All through my career I've written 1,000 words a day—even if I've got a hangover. You've got to discipline yourself if you're professional. There's no other way.
<b>Jack London</b>	1 500	You can't wait for inspiration. You have to go after it with a club.
<b>John van de Ruit</b>	1 000	Find your groove / rhythm / pattern and write according to that. Make sure you write a minimum number of words every day. 1000 words should be the least you do every day.
<b>Jon Creasey</b>	6 000	How many words a day do I write? Between six and seven thousand. And how many hours does that take? Three on a good day, as high as thirteen on a bad one.
<b>Kate DiCamillo</b>	600-900	My goal is two pages a day, five days a week. I never want to write, but I'm always glad that I have done it. After I write, I go to work at the bookstore.
<b>Lee Child</b>	1 800	I write in the afternoon, from about 12 until 6 or 7. I use an upstairs room as my office. Once I get going I keep at it, and it usually takes about six months from the first blank screen until 'The End.'
<b>Lisa Jewell</b>	1 000	Pace yourself. If you write too much too quickly, you'll go off at tangents and lose your way and if you write infrequently you'll lose your momentum. A thousand words a day is a good ticking over amount.
<b>Lisa See</b>	1 000	Write 1,000 words a day, five days a week, before you do anything else. At the end of a week, you'll have twenty pages—a chapter. If you do it first thing in the morning, then you won't get distracted by all the things that tempt you not to write.
<b>Margaret Meade</b>	1 000	Do they know I get up at five o'clock every morning to write a thousand words before breakfast?
<b>Mark Twain</b>	1 400	In 1897, when we were living in Tedworth Square, London, and I was writing the book called <i>Following the Equator</i> , my average was 1800 words a day; here in Florence my average seems to be 1400 words per sitting of four or five hours.
<b>Maya Angelou</b>	2 500	Nothing will work unless you do.
<b>Michael Crichton</b>	10 000	Books aren't written, they're rewritten. Including your own. It is one of the hardest things to accept, especially after the seventh rewrite hasn't quite done it.
<b>Michael Robotham</b>	500	I try to write a least 500 words a day, hopefully twice that much - and spend my evenings doing research, answering mail and correcting proofs.
<b>Nicholas Sparks</b>	2 000	I write five or six days a week, usually a minimum of 2000 words, sometimes more. 2000 words can take anywhere from three to eight hours.
<b>Norman Mailer</b>	3 000	Writer's block is only a failure of the ego.
<b>Patricia Highsmith</b>	2 000	I like to work for four or five hours a day. I aim for seven days a week.
<b>Peter James</b>	1 000	Once you start writing a book, make time to write every single day. Find a comfortable number of words for you to write each day and stick to that number. I am comfortable with 1000 words.
<b>R. F. Delderfield</b>	10 000	I set out to tell a straightforward story of a group of undistinguished British people—the only kind of people I really know.
<b>Sarah Waters</b>	1 000	My minimum is 1 000 words a day... Those 1000 words might well be rubbish – they often are. But then, it is always easier to return to rubbish words at a later date and make them better.
<b>Sebastian Faulks</b>	1 000	When I am writing a book I work from ten till six every day in a small office near my house. I never write less than a thousand words a day. Writer's Block is God's way of telling you to shut up. More people should have it.
<b>Shelby Foote</b>	500	And I'm a slow writer: five, six hundred words is a good day. That's the reason it took me 20 years to write those million and a half words of the Civil War.
<b>Sophie Kinsella</b>	1 000	I try to write 1,000 words a day. Sometimes I do that by 11 a.m. Other times I'm still struggling at 3 p.m. Then it's time to give up for the day!
<b>Stephen King</b>	2 000	I like to get ten pages a day, which amounts to 2 000 words.
<b>Susan Wittig Albert</b>	1 500	When I'm writing (about 8-9 months a year), I'm at the computer by 9, into the book by 10, and done for the day by 5, when the dogs insist on taking me for a walk. I aim for 1500 words a day.
<b>W. Somerset Maugham</b>	1 000	There are three rules for writing a novel. Unfortunately, no one knows what they are.