

# Interior Formatting Guide for Print Books

## Standard Margins & Gutter Settings

For most books between 100-400 pages:

- Top/Bottom Margins: 0.75"-1"
- Outside Margin: 0.5"-0.75"
- Inside (Gutter) Margin: 0.75"-1" depending on page count
- Mirror margins (inside vs. outside) are required for double-sided print

Publisher Tip: Don't trust your word processor's default settings. They're designed for office memos-not books.

## Best Fonts for Readability

Recommended Fonts (for any genre):

1. Garamond - Timeless, elegant, and easy on the eyes
2. Georgia - Built for screen and print, great for nonfiction
3. Minion Pro - Widely used in publishing, clean and classy
4. Palatino Linotype - Friendly and open, great for memoir or historical
5. Lato - A sans-serif option that's still readable for modern, instructional styles

Publisher Tip: If your font makes your book look like a flyer, change it. This isn't Canva. This is a book.

## Line Spacing

Standard: 1.15 to 1.5 line spacing

- Avoid double-spacing unless formatting academic work
- Paragraph spacing (after): 0 pt

Publisher Tip: More white space doesn't mean easier to read-it means amateur hour. Tighten it up without cramping.

## Paragraph Formatting

- Use first-line indents (0.25" to 0.5")
- Do NOT add a line break between paragraphs (except for scene breaks)

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- Justified text is standard in most genres; ragged-right is acceptable for creative nonfiction or poetry

Publisher Tip: Full-justified text creates that professional look-unless you're writing something intentionally offbeat, don't get clever here.

## Trim Size & Page Layout

Popular Trim Sizes:

- 5" x 8" - Compact, literary feel
- 5.5" x 8.5" - Balanced, good for fiction and memoir
- 6" x 9" - Industry standard for nonfiction and instructional

Publisher Tip: Don't pick your trim size because it 'sounds right'-print cost and audience expectation matter more.

## Font Samples (Visual Reference)

For best results, preview these fonts in your word processor or design software:

- Garamond: Classic serif, elegant for novels
- Georgia: Great balance for print and digital
- Minion Pro: Clean lines, publishing favorite
- Palatino Linotype: Open, friendly serif
- Lato: Clean sans-serif for modern nonfiction