

Job of The Week

Writer

Key Skills

- Knowledge of English language
- Excellent written communication skills
- Persistence and determination
- Excellent verbal communication skills
- The ability to use your initiative
- The ability to come up with new ways of doing things
- Ambition and a desire to succeed
- Knowledge of media production and communication
- To be able to use a computer and the main software packages competently

Salary
Variable

Working hours
37 – 39 per week
freelance / self-employed
managing your own hours

Aspire | Challenge | Achieve



Writer

Volunteering

You can do several things to develop your writing skills and learn more about the world of publishing. These include:

- joining a local writers' group
- entering writing competitions
- blogging online

Direct Application

You might be able to apply directly for technical writer jobs in industries like engineering or pharmaceuticals, if you've got the relevant background and qualifications.

Experience in journalism could also help you to get into travel or broadcast writing.

Other Routes

You could work in TV or radio as a scriptwriter. [BBC Writersroom](#) has information, advice and workshops on writing and submitting scripts.

You may be able to publish and sell your work without formal training or qualifications, if you're exceptionally talented and have taught yourself. A literary agent may be able to help you with this.

University

You'll need a high level of writing skill and talent. To develop these skills, you could get a qualification like a foundation degree, higher national diploma or degree in a subject like:

- Creative writing
- Communication and media
- English language or literature
- Creative and professional writing
- Journalism

You could also do a postgraduate writing course to get into this career.

Entry requirements

You'll usually need:

- 1 or 2 A levels, or equivalent, for a foundation degree or higher national diploma
- 2 to 3 A levels, or equivalent, for a degree
- a degree in any subject for a postgraduate course

Career tips

You'll need:

- creative ideas that will sell
- good research skills
- the ability to express ideas in a style suited to your intended audience

You'll also need to have confidence in your writing, be able to accept criticism and remain positive.

You'll need a portfolio of your work to show to employers and commissioning editors.

Career path and progression

You could self-publish, in traditional print format, online or through e-books.

You might be able to promote your work by entering literary competitions, become a book critic or teach creative writing in colleges.

Day to Day tasks

In this role you could:

- Come up with ideas, plots or content headings
- Run writing workshops
- Submit your draft to a publisher or editor
- Revise your work after getting feedback
- Attend book signings, readings and discussions of your work
- Develop your story, article, blog, review or instruction manual
- Choose a subject based on personal interest, or at the request of an agent or publisher
- Research information using the internet, libraries, site visits and personal interviews
- Upload your work to websites or social media, or look for publishing opportunities

Working conditions

You could work in an office or from home.

Labour Market Information

In the Careers section of the school website you can find the useful comparison tool the 'Labour Market Information widget'.

Use the widget to compare different job roles in any employment sector or relating specifically to the 'Job of the Week'.

Authors, writers and translators	Newspaper, periodical and broadcast editors	Further education teaching professionals
Weekly Pay £720 Hours/Week 33h Annual Pay £37,440 Hourly Pay £22	Weekly Pay £810 Hours/Week 40h Annual Pay £42,120 Hourly Pay £20	Weekly Pay £760 Hours/Week 35h Annual Pay £39,520 Hourly Pay £22
Workforce Change (projected) Growth 9.9% The workforce is projected to grow by 9.9% over the period to 2035, creating 12,500 jobs.	Workforce Change (projected) Growth 10.9% The workforce is projected to grow by 10.9% over the period to 2035, creating 4,900 jobs.	Workforce Change (projected) Growth 8% The workforce is projected to grow by 8% over the period to 2035, creating 7,100 jobs.
You might find this job in Libraries, etc Publishing activities Office admin. Legal & accounting Membership organisations	You might find this job in Advertising, etc Publishing activities Wholesale trade Education Arts & entertainment	You might find this job in Education Public admin. & defence Services to buildings
More info	More info	More info
Clear card	Clear card	Clear card

Labour Market Information



<p>Authors, writers and translators</p> <p>Authors, writers and translators write, edit and evaluate literary material for publication excluding material for newspapers, magazines and other periodicals but including scripts and narrative for film, TV, radio and computer games and animations; and translate spoken and written statements into different languages.</p> <p>Common tasks in this job:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> determines subject matter and researches as necessary by interviewing, attending public events, seeking out records, observing etc. generates and develops creative ideas for literary material selects material for publication, checks style, grammar and accuracy of content, arranges for any necessary revisions and checks proof copies before printing negotiates contracts with freelance agents and with buyer on behalf of writer <p>Back Clear card</p>	<p>Newspaper, periodical and broadcast editors</p> <p>Newspaper, periodical and broadcast editors evaluate, manage and oversee the editorial direction for the style and content of features and stories for broadcasting and for newspapers, magazines, news websites and periodicals.</p> <p>Common tasks in this job:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> commissions articles and selects material for broadcast or publication checks style, grammar, accuracy and legality of content and arranges for any necessary revisions decides on lay out of material in news websites, newspapers, magazines, or periodicals liaises with production staff in checking final proof copies immediately prior to printing <p>Back Clear card</p>	<p>Further education teaching professionals</p> <p>Further education teaching professionals supervise and teach trade, technical, commercial, adult education, secondary and post-secondary courses to students beyond minimum school leaving age.</p> <p>Common tasks in this job:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> prepares, delivers and directs lectures, seminars and tutorials prepares, administers and marks examinations, essays and other assignments arranges instructional visits and periods of employment experience for students assists with the administration of teaching and the arranging of timetables <p>Back Clear card</p>
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Keep looking...

Use these links to learn more about our Job of The Week, consider the various pathways leading to the career, what you can be doing now to help yourself and other roles in the industry...

Take a look at these short videos for inspiration...

Newspaper Journalist



[Newspaper or magazine journalist: Leah's story](#)

Penguin Random House Book Editor



[What does a book editor do?](#)

Becoming a Writer



[The truth about becoming a writer with Lee Child | Meet your Maestro | BBC Maestro](#)

How to Become a Writer



[How to Become a Writer | Degrees, Skills & Career Paths \(UK\)](#)

Useful Websites

[For Writers of all levels, published or not, NAWG, Writing Groups, national,](#)

[Competitions - The Poetry Society](#)

[Homepage | Writers & Artists](#)

[Writer | MYPATH](#)

[Life as a writer - Penguin Books UK | Official Site](#)

[How to become a writer - BBC Bitesize](#)