

In the Bookstores

SECTION EDITOR



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Medical writing books on a budget

Over the years, I have accumulated several shelves of books relating to medical writing. All were chosen because they provide insight into medical writing techniques, useful guidance on style and grammar, or enhance my understanding of other related subjects (e.g. statistics). On the whole, the contents of the books have remained pertinent and I return to them again and again.

Educational books can be expensive but the availability of ebook versions can result in a reduced cost. I have therefore searched Amazon UK to compile a list of ebooks that were easily accessible, not too expensive (i.e., cost less than £10), and might help enhance your medical writing. For some ebooks, if you have Kindle unlimited there is no charge to download. I have not included any regulatory guidance books since

they usually only provide a snapshot of regulations and information can become quickly outdated.

I declare that this list of Medical Writing Books on a Budget (Table 1) was not prepared as a systematic review of available books, hence you and I must accept that there is inherent bias.

My criteria for compiling the list were:

1. A version of the book should cost less than £10 (approximately 10 Euros)
2. There should be an English language version
3. The book did not cover regulatory medical writing
4. I reviewed the available information and decided the book might inform your medical writing.

My search was carried out on Amazon UK and last compiled on November 15, 2022. The star rating for each book is given by customers on Amazon. Where a paperback version also met the criteria for price this information is included.

For information, *Bad Pharma* and *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* were both previously reviewed by an EMWA member for this section. I have included *Lucky Man: A Memoir* by Michael J. Fox to offer a patient perspective of living with disease.

There are many other books that appeared relevant and I would have liked to select – but they cost more than my set limit, hence they were excluded. I hope you find those that remain both informative and useful.

Written, reviewed and compiled
by Alison McIntosh



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Table 1. Medical writing books on a budget

Book title	Author and publisher	Customer reviews	Cost
 <i>Effective Medical Writing: An Academic Writing Guide</i>	Author Thomas Buckingham Publisher: (Oct 4, 2017)	4.4 stars out of 5 (29 reviews)	Kindle edition price £6.01
 <i>Medical Writing: A Brief Guide for Beginners</i>	Author: Carol Scott-Conner Publisher: Rachel Lord Press (Oct 23, 2015)	3.5 stars out of 5 (3 reviews)	Kindle edition price £7.26
 <i>Writing Scientific Papers in English Successfully: Your Complete Roadmap</i>	Author: Ethel Schuster Editors, Haim Levkowitz, Osvaldo N. Oliveira, Jr Publisher: hpyrtek.com, inc. (Nov 23, 2014)	4.7 stars out of 5 (50 reviews)	Paperback edition £7.65 Kindle edition price £7.63
 <i>Fast Facts: Clinical Trials in Oncology The Fundamentals of Design, Conduct and Interpretation</i>	Author: A Hackshaw, G.C.E. Stuart Publisher: S. Karger; 1st edition (Dec 18, 2020)	5 stars out of 5 (3 reviews)	Free in Kindle Store
 <i>Eats, Shoots and Leaves</i>	Author: Lynne Truss Publisher: Fourth Estate (May 26, 2011)	4.5 stars out of 5 (2,825 reviews)	Paperback edition £4.83 Kindle edition price £3.99
 <i>Oxford Guide to Plain English</i>	Author: Martin Cutts Publisher: Oxford University Press; (Feb 27, 2020)	4.6 stars out of 5 (155 reviews)	Paperback edition £7.15 Kindle edition price £4.72
 <i>The Art of Statistics: Learning from Data</i>	Author: David Spiegelhalter Publisher: Pelican (Feb 13, 2020)	4.5 stars out of 5 (2,865 reviews)	Kindle edition price £1.99
 <i>How to Make the World Add Up: Ten Rules for Thinking Differently About Numbers</i>	Author: Tim Harford Publisher: The Bridge Street Press (Sept 17, 2020)	4.6 stars out of 5 (1,186 reviews)	Paperback edition £5.22 Kindle edition price £0.99
 <i>How Charts Lie: Getting Smarter about Visual Information</i>	Author: Alberto Cairo Publisher: W. W. Norton & Company (Oct 15, 2019)	4.7 stars out of 5 (348 reviews)	Kindle edition price £8.96
 <i>Bad Pharma: How Drug Companies Mislead Doctors and Harm Patients*</i>	Author: Ben Goldacre Publisher: Fourth Estate (Sept 25, 2012)	4.5 stars out of 5 (953 reviews)	Paperback edition £8.49 Kindle edition price £3.99
 <i>Viruses: The Invisible Enemy (Oxford Landmark Science)</i>	Author: Dorothy H Crawford OUP Oxford; 2nd edition (Nov 5, 2021)	4.6 stars out of 5 (19 reviews)	Paperback edition £7.99 Kindle edition price £5.57
 <i>The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*</i>	Author: Rebecca Skloot Publisher: Picador (June 3, 2010)	4.6 stars out of 5 (15,305 reviews)	Paperback edition £8.38 Kindle edition price £4.99
 <i>Lucky Man: A Memoir</i>	Author: Michael J Fox Publisher: Ebury Press; 1st Paperback Edition (Jan 2, 2003)	4.6 stars out of 5 (1,886 reviews)	Kindle edition price £9.49

* Previously reviewed by an EMWA member for In the Bookstores Last updated on Oct 6, 2022