

## Editors, publishers, agents and ghosts

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edit  
editor  
  
publish  
publisher  
publication  
  
literary agent  
  
ghost writer  
ghost  
ghost-write

An editor edits or corrects, changes and perhaps shortens what a writer has written and prepares it to be **published**, or promoted and distributed by a **publisher**. This process is publication. A **publication** is also something that is published, such as a book or newspaper.

A **literary agent** is someone who manages an author's business dealings with publishers.

A **ghost writer** or **ghost** is someone who **ghost-writes** or **ghosts** a famous person's autobiography for them, perhaps because they are incapable of writing it themselves.

### ◆ LANGUAGE NOTE

Ghost writer and ghost write are also written with a hyphen.

*The book is poorly edited. There should be no place in the published version of a lecture for sentences like: 'I haven't obviously time to run over what I think would be the right answers here.'*

*'Obviously,' she said, 'we reject anything that is racist, sexist or stereotypist. Apart from that, I suppose we just choose the books with the most colour. I asked a children's book editor how common this was. 'Quite common,' she said.*

*The book contained information that might endanger Israel or Israelis. An attempt to prevent publication in the United States has failed and 50,000 copies have already been sold.*

*It's the first time for more than three years that a publication has been closed by the authorities who under the law have the right to revoke the publishing licence of any publication printing allegedly controversial or damaging material.*

*'I'm interested in the film deal as it serves the book,' says Virginia Barber, a New York literary agent. She used that strategy for Marti Leimbach, the first-time author of 'Dying Young' (Doubleday) and it worked. The film deal helped Ms Leimbach receive \$500,000 for hardback and foreign rights.*

*The impression is hard to shake that Reagan's publicists or, perhaps his publishers, certainly his ghost-writer Robert Linsey, are saying: 'You lived through the presidency, now read the book.'*

*Having called a press conference to publicise his new ghosted book, Mansell refused to give out the traditional review copies.*