

How to print a book

When authors finish their books and send them to the printing firm for publication, they still have a long way to go before being displayed in a bookshop window for sale.

Typesetting and galleys. If authors type their book into a computer, a professional typesetter only has to carry out some changes regarding size and style. If they hand out their manuscripts, instead, the typesetter must convert it into an electronic form. In both cases, they obtain *galleys*, which are long pages on a single column which still need a suitable pagination. Galleys must go through proofreading and editing in order to correct errors before proceeding with the next steps.

Pages and mechanical. Galleys are then transformed into *pages* or *lasers*, usually printed on standard typing paper, which need another editing before a mechanical – or camera copy – of the typeset page is produced. This is again printed on paper, whose quality must be high enough to be filmed.

Filming. The next step is photographing the pages with large cameras to produce *negatives*, which are the opposite of the way the pages will be later read. In case the writing or the illustrations of the book are in more than one colour, separate negatives must be produced for each colour and that means more time and costs.

binding: *rilegatura*

to case in: *rivestire, mettere in un involucro*

lining: *rivestimento interno*

sewing: *cucitura*

to trim the edges: *ritagliare i bordi*

Stripping. After being checked for accuracy, the negatives are stripped onto a *goldenrod* or *flat*, a large sheet containing 32 or 64 pages, which are not positioned in the way and order as they will appear in the book. They will acquire the correct position and chronology when the goldenrods are folded over and over, a process which is called *imposition*.

Blueprints. Ultraviolet light passes through the goldenrods to print the images onto a special paper. These pages are called *blueprints* because of the colour of the paper and ink. If errors are detected, the whole process must be repeated from the beginning.

Plates. Approved goldenrods are photographed and the negatives are exposed onto a *plate*, a thin sheet of aluminium, which will be treated with a chemical that attracts ink.

Printing. The plates are then ready for the press, through which they will pass as many times as the number of colours on the page.

Binding. When printed sheets are dry, they are sent to the bindery, either in the same printing company if they have one or an outside one. There the goldenrods are folded and collated into book *signatures* (folded sections of 32 or 64 pages), and the pages are bound in the right sequence. The process includes **sewing**, gluing, inserting **lining** and **trimming the edges**, depending on the kind of books. The last step is **casing in**, which consists in enclosing the book in a cover.

1  Choose T if the sentence is correct or F if it is false and correct it.

1. A book goes through a lot of steps before publication.
2. Professional typesetters always re-type the author's book.
3. The first electronic form of the book is already paginated.
4. Lasers and camera copies are synonyms.
5. You need more than one negative if illustrations are in more than one colour.
6. Ultraviolet light is used in the last step of the whole procedure.
7. Ink is spread directly onto a sheet of aluminium.
8. The pages of a book are always sent to an external bindery.

T	F
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2  Choose the correct option.

1. Galleys are...
 - a. pages on two columns.
 - b. long paginated pages.
 - c. long pages on one column.
 - d. paginated pages on one column.
2. Lasers...
 - a. are never proofread.
 - b. are not printed yet.
 - c. require special paper.
 - d. are printed on standard paper.
3. Camera copies...
 - a. are printed on standard paper.
 - b. are printed on high-quality paper.
 - c. are printed after being filmed.
 - d. are also called pages.
4. Large cameras are used...
 - a. to produce negatives.
 - b. from lasers.
 - c. only for illustrations.
 - d. only for the texts.
5. Goldenrods are large sheets of paper containing...
 - a. a maximum of 32 pages.
 - b. 64 pages.
 - c. 32 or 64 pages.
 - d. any number of pages up to 64.
6. Plates...
 - a. still need further steps before being printed.
 - b. contain pages in the order they will appear in the book.
 - c. can only be printed once.
 - d. are the last step of the procedure before the printing press is used.

