

How to Start a Publishing Company (Checklist)

1. Do Market Research.

- a. Survey consumers.
- b. Research economic studies. \Box
- c. Study competitors. \Box
- d. Analyze the demographics of your target market. \Box
- e. Pass out samples. \Box

2. Refine Your Concept.

- a. Decide what you want to produce. \Box
- b. Describe your company in one sentence. \Box
- c. Gather feedback. \Box

3. Give Your Business a Name. \Box

- a. Decide on a name. \Box
- b. Check if it is available. \Box
- c. Trademark the name. \Box

4. Create a Business Plan.

- a. Executive summary. \Box
- b. Business description. \Box
- c. Market analysis. □
- d. Organization management.
- e. Sales strategy. \Box
- f. Funding needs. \Box
- g. Financial projections. \Box



5. Create a Legal Entity.

- a. Choose your legal structure.
- b. Register with your State. \Box
- c. Get an Employer Identification Number (EIN). □

6. Secure Financing. □

- a. Attract investors. \Box
 - i. Sell equity in your business. \Box
 - ii. Secure a private loan from friends or family. \Box
- b. Apply for a loan. \Box
 - i. Meet with a lender. \Box
 - ii. Fill out the application form. \Box
 - iii. Provide collateral and your credit history. \square
 - iv. Sign a loan agreement after approval. \Box

7. Purchase Insurance. \Box

- a. Find out what type of insurance your business needs. \Box
- b. Find a provider or agent. \Box
- c. Purchase a policy. \Box

8. Find Office/Retail Space.

- a. Determine if you really need a space. \Box
- b. Calculate costs. \Box
 - i. Find out what's in your budget. \Box
 - ii. Total utilities. □
 - iii. Total technology costs. \Box
 - iv. Total rent and maintenance. \Box
- c. Shop around. \Box

9. Hire Employees or Freelancers. \Box

- a. Write a job description. \Box
- b. Post on a job board. \Box



- c. Review applications and resumes. \Box
- d. Interview candidates. \Box
- e. Check references. \Box
- f. Send a job offer. \Box
- g. Fill out the mandatory IRS forms. \Box

10. Brand and Advertise. \Box

- a. Craft your brand.
 - i. Write an elevator pitch. \Box
 - ii. Find out who your customers are. \square
 - iii. Decide what kind of brand personality you want to have. \square
 - iv. Determine what you want people to associate your brand with. \Box
- b. Connect with customers through advertising. \Box
 - i. Set up email marketing software. \square
 - ii. Set up SMS marketing software. \Box
 - iii. Create social media accounts for your business. \square
- c. Network.
 - i. Attend industry events. \Box
 - ii. Join relevant guilds and societies. \square



