A SIMPLE EARNINGS PLANNING WORKBOOK

KDP ROYALTY
WORKSHEET

Estimate your royalties and plan your book earnings with confidence.

Created by SimpleLifeCalc.com

Made for:

Low-content publishers • Coloring book creators
Journal creators • Activity book publishers

Royalty rates and printing costs are set by Amazon KDP and change over time. Always confirm current numbers in your KDP account.

Contents

HOW TO USE THIS WORKBOOK

This is a working document, not just a guide. Print it (or fill it in digitally) and complete the worksheets for each book you publish.

Every dollar figure inside is an illustrative example to show how the math works. Your real royalty rate and printing cost come from your KDP account — plug in your own numbers as you go.

1. Understanding Royalties

A **royalty** is the money you actually keep each time your book sells. When someone buys your book, Amazon takes its share and covers the printing cost — what's left over is your royalty. It's your earnings, per book, after the costs come out.

The simple idea

WHAT A ROYALTY IS, IN PLAIN ENGLISH

Royalty = your share of the list price, after printing cost is taken out

For paperback and similar print books, your royalty is based on your list price and your book's printing cost. The exact share is set by KDP — you'll confirm it in your account.

Two things shape every royalty

What affects it	What it means	You control it by…
List price	What the buyer pays for your book	Setting your price
Printing cost	What it costs KDP to print one copy	Page count, ink, trim size

The bigger the gap between your **list price** and your **printing cost**, the more you keep. That's the whole game: price well, and keep printing costs sensible.

Why low-content books are friendly here

- Simple interiors (lined, blank, coloring) often keep printing costs low.
- Black-ink books usually cost less to print than color ones.
- Fewer pages can mean a lower printing cost — and a bigger royalty.

💡 **BEGINNER TIP**

Use the KDP Royalty Calculator at SimpleLifeCalc.com to see your estimated royalty in seconds — enter your price and book details. This workbook helps you understand each number you put into it.

⚠️ **KEEP IT EVERGREEN**

Royalty percentages, printing costs, and pricing rules are set by KDP and change over time. This workbook shows you HOW royalties work — always confirm your current rate and printing cost in your KDP account.

2. Royalty Planning Worksheet

Goal for this page: gather the details that decide your royalty, in one place, before you do any math. Fill this in for one book.

Book title: ____

Book type (coloring, journal, activity, planner):

____

The details that affect printing cost

Page count: ______

Ink type (black or color): ____

Trim size (book dimensions): ____

Cover type (paperback, hardcover): ____

Where you'll sell

- ☐ I know which marketplaces I'll publish to.
- ☐ I understand my royalty may differ by marketplace and currency.
- ☐ I'll confirm my current royalty rate in my KDP account.

WHY THESE DETAILS MATTER

Page count, ink, and trim size all feed into your printing cost — and printing cost is subtracted before you earn your royalty. Getting these right is the first step to an accurate estimate.

💡 BEGINNER TIP

Lower page counts and black ink usually mean lower printing costs, which leaves more royalty for you. When a design choice is optional, the simpler option often pays you more per sale.

3. Book Pricing Worksheet

Goal for this page: choose a list price that readers will pay AND that leaves you a healthy royalty. Price is the lever you control most directly.

Research the market

Typical price for similar books: $ ____

Lowest and highest I saw: $ ____

The most common price (the middle): $ ____

Set your price range

My low end (still feels fair to me): $ ____

My high end (top of similar books): $ ____

My chosen list price: $ ____

Sense-check your price

- ☐ My price is in line with similar books — not the cheapest in a way that signals low quality.
- ☐ My price leaves room for a royalty after printing cost.
- ☐ My price still feels fair for the value inside.

PRICE IS YOUR BIGGEST ROYALTY LEVER

Because printing cost is fairly fixed once your book is designed, your list price is the main thing that decides your royalty. A fair, confident price often earns far more than a rock-bottom one.

💡 **BEGINNER TIP**

New publishers almost always price too low. Buyers rarely choose a book on price alone — a strong cover and clear title matter more. Price for the value you offer, not out of fear.

4. Printing Cost Worksheet

Goal for this page: find your **printing cost** — what KDP charges to print one copy. This is subtracted from your sale before you earn your royalty, so it matters a lot.

What drives printing cost

- **Page count** — more pages usually cost more to print.
- **Ink** — color printing typically costs more than black ink.
- **Trim size** — larger books can cost more.
- **Marketplace** — printing cost can differ by region and currency.

Record your printing cost

Find your book's printing cost estimate inside KDP (it shows as you set up or price your book), then record it here.

Detail	Example	Your book
Page count	120	____
Ink	Black	____
Trim size	8.5 × 11 in	____
Printing cost per copy	**$2.65**	$ ____

My printing cost per copy: $ ______________________________

💡 **BEGINNER TIP**

If your printing cost feels high, look at page count and ink first. Trimming unused pages or choosing black ink (where it suits the book) can lower printing cost and lift your royalty on every sale.

⚠️ **KEEP IT CURRENT**

Printing costs are set by KDP and change over time and by marketplace. Always pull your current printing cost from your KDP account rather than relying on an example figure.

5. Royalty Estimation Worksheet

Goal for this page: estimate what you'll actually earn per book. Bring forward your price (page 5) and printing cost (page 6).

THE ROYALTY IDEA (SIMPLIFIED)

Royalty ≈ (List price × your royalty rate) − printing cost

Your royalty rate is set by KDP and depends on your price and options — confirm it in your account, then use it here. The example below uses an illustrative rate just to show the steps.

Estimate your royalty

Line	Example	Your number
List price	$9.99	$ ____
× Your royalty rate (from KDP)	(illustrative)	____ %
= Amount before printing	$5.99	$ ____
− Printing cost (from page 6)	$2.65	$ ____
= Estimated royalty per book	**$3.34**	$ ____

My estimated royalty per book: $ ____

💡 **BEGINNER TIP**

Skip the hand math: the KDP Royalty Calculator at SimpleLifeCalc.com estimates your royalty for you — enter your price and book details and it applies the current rate and printing cost automatically.

⚠️ **KEEP IT EVERGREEN**

The royalty rate and printing cost are set by KDP and change over time. The percentages and dollars here are examples only — always use your own current numbers from your KDP account.

6. Earnings Goal Worksheet

Goal for this page: set a clear monthly earnings goal and connect it to your royalty per book. A goal with real numbers behind it feels reachable.

Step 1: Your goal

How much would I like to earn per month? $ ______________________________

My estimated royalty per book (from page 7): $ ______________________________

Step 2: A first look at what it takes

THE EARNINGS FORMULA

Books to sell = Monthly goal ÷ Royalty per book

Example: $300 goal ÷ $3.34 royalty ≈ 90 books a month ≈ about 3 a day (across all your titles).

Books I’d need to sell per month: _______

Step 3: Make it feel reachable

- Could a slightly higher price raise my royalty per book?
- Could lowering printing cost (pages, ink) raise my royalty?
- Could more titles spread those sales across many books?

💡 **BEGINNER TIP**

Notice how a higher royalty per book lowers the number of sales you need. On KDP, publishing more titles AND earning more per book both move you toward your goal — they work together.

✅ **REFRAME THE GOAL**

“Earn $300” can feel vague. “Sell about 3 books a day across my catalog” feels concrete — same goal, friendlier framing.

7. Sales Needed Worksheet

Goal for this page: break your earnings goal into clear sales targets per book and per catalog, so you know exactly what you're aiming for.

Per single book

This book's royalty per sale: $ ______________________________________

Monthly earnings I want from this book: $ ______________________________________

Copies of this book to sell per month: ______

Across your whole catalog

My total monthly earnings goal: $ ______________________________________

My average royalty per book: $ ______________________________________

Total books to sell per month (all titles): ______

That's about this many per day: ______

MORE TITLES, FEWER SALES EACH

If 1 book needs 90 sales a month, then 10 books each need only about 9. Spreading your goal across a catalog makes each title's target small and realistic — a core KDP strategy.

💡 **BEGINNER TIP**

Don't pin your whole goal on one book. A handful of steady sellers usually beats hoping for one breakout title — and it's far less stressful.

8. Monthly Royalty Tracker

Track your royalties month by month so you can see your earnings grow and spot what's working. Fill one row each month. (Copy this page as the year goes on.)

Month	Books sold	Royalties earned	Titles live	Best seller

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Royalties trending up? Whatever you're doing is working — do more of it.

A clear best seller? Make more books like it, or turn it into a series.

Flat month? Revisit pricing and printing cost on your top titles.

💡 **BEGINNER TIP**

Track royalties (what you keep), not just books sold. Two books can sell the same number of copies but earn very different royalties — the one that pays more deserves more of your attention.

9. Common Royalty Mistakes

Tick any that sound like you — then fix them. Every one quietly shrinks what you earn per book.

- ☐ Pricing without checking the royalty it actually leaves.
- ☐ Forgetting that printing cost comes out before your royalty.
- ☐ Ignoring how page count and ink raise printing cost.
- ☐ Pricing too low out of fear, leaving little royalty per sale.
- ☐ Assuming the royalty rate is the same everywhere (it varies).
- ☐ Never re-checking royalty after changing price or page count.
- ☐ Confusing total sales with actual royalties earned.
- ☐ Pinning all hopes on one book instead of a small catalog.
- ☐ Using color ink when black would suit the book and cost less.
- ☐ Not tracking which titles actually earn the most.
- ☐ Never raising the price on a proven seller.
- ☐ Guessing at royalties instead of using a calculator.

✖️ THE BIGGEST MISTAKE

Setting a price without knowing the royalty it leaves. If you don’t know what you keep per book, every price is a guess. Estimate your royalty first — then price on purpose.

✅ PICK JUST ONE

Don’t fix all of these today. Choose the ONE costing you most and handle it this week. One change at a time adds up across your whole catalog.

10. Quick Wins

Short on time? These are the fastest ways to raise your royalties. Pick ONE and do it today.

1. **Estimate your royalty.** If you don’t know what you keep per book, this is the most useful 10 minutes you’ll spend.
2. **Raise the price on your best seller.** A small increase on a proven book flows straight into royalties.
3. **Trim unused pages.** Lower page count can lower printing cost and lift your royalty.
4. **Reconsider color vs. black ink.** If black ink suits the book, it often costs less to print.
5. **Publish one more title.** More books means more chances to earn, and smaller targets each.
6. **Turn a best seller into a series.** Reuse what already works in new themes or variations.
7. **Check your royalty in each marketplace.** It can differ — make sure your price works everywhere you sell.
8. **Run a title through a calculator.** Confirm price and royalty before you commit.

✅ FASTEST WIN OF ALL

Run your main book through the KDP Royalty Calculator at SimpleLifeCalc.com today. In two minutes you’ll know your royalty per book — the number every other decision depends on.

✅ ONE AT A TIME

Do ONE quick win, not all eight. Finish it, feel the win, then stop. Small completed steps build momentum better than a giant list.

11. Goal Review

Once a month, take 15 minutes here to check your progress and adjust. This is how a few books grow into a steady income.

Pull your numbers

Royalties earned this month: $ ____

Books sold this month: ______

Titles I have published: ______

My best-earning book this month: ____

Goal review checklist

- ☐ Compared this month’s royalties to last month’s.
- ☐ Checked progress toward my monthly earnings goal.
- ☐ Found my best-earning title — can I make more like it?
- ☐ Spotted any title earning a thin royalty I could improve.
- ☐ Confirmed nothing on my listings looks broken or wrong.
- ☐ Chose ONE change to make next month.

💡 **BEGINNER TIP**

Re-check your royalty estimate whenever KDP changes printing costs or you adjust a price or page count. A quick recalculation keeps your earnings plan accurate.

MAKE IT A HABIT

Put a recurring “Royalty Review” on your calendar for the 1st of each month. Fifteen minutes of consistency turns a single book into a growing catalog of earnings.

12. Profit Improvement Checklist

A deeper checklist for when you're ready to raise royalties across your whole catalog. Work through one section at a time.

Pricing

- ☐ Every title meets a minimum royalty I'm happy with.
- ☐ My best sellers are priced for profit, not just popularity.
- ☐ I've checked my royalty in each marketplace I sell in.

Printing cost

- ☐ Page counts are as lean as the book allows.
- ☐ I use black ink where color isn't needed.
- ☐ Trim sizes are sensible for the book type and cost.

Catalog

- ☐ I'm publishing new titles regularly.
- ☐ My best sellers have sequels, series, or variations.
- ☐ I've retired or fixed titles that barely earn.

Tracking

- ☐ I track royalties per title, not just total sales.
- ☐ I review my best and worst earners each month.
- ☐ I re-check royalties whenever KDP costs change.

💡 **BEGINNER TIP**

Two levers raise KDP earnings: earn more per book (price and printing cost) and publish more books. Work both, a little at a time, and your royalties compound.

13. Final Action Plan

Turn this workbook into action. Fill it in now, while it's fresh — then keep it where you'll see it.

Today

The one book I'll estimate the royalty for first:

____

Its estimated royalty per sale: $ ____

This week

One price or page-count change I'll make: ____

One new title idea to start: ____

This month

My monthly royalty goal: $ ____

Date for my first Goal Review: ____

Recommended Calculators

- **KDP Royalty Calculator** — estimate what you'll earn per book from your price and book details.
- **KDP Break-Even Calculator** — see how many copies cover any upfront costs (like proof copies or design).

💡 **BEGINNER TIP**

Free versions of the KDP Royalty Calculator and the KDP Break-Even Calculator are at SimpleLifeCalc.com — simple and beginner-friendly, just like this workbook. Run a book through both before you publish.

You've got this. Plan your earnings and keep publishing! 📚

Visit SimpleLifeCalc.com for free calculators, guides, worksheets, and creator resources.

Royalty rates and printing costs change — always confirm current numbers in your KDP account.