

NaNoWriMo 2015: Start Writing

So you've had a head start, prior to our sharing of tips, and if you're on target for the 50,000 word goal, you'll have hopefully written 6,668 words before the end of today. If you're not on target or you haven't written anything yet, don't panic.

Here's a selection of our top tips for starting your story or getting back on the writing wagon if you've already fallen off:

1. **If you need to plan, keep it brief** Planning time is always good to take in October. However, if you didn't get round to it, you could spend a short amount of time planning now. **Short** being the important word here. Don't over plan. Or, if you're feeling adventurous (or you're just not the planning sort), you could skip the planning and start writing (be spontaneous)
2. **If you're writing about a topic you haven't experienced, do some research** This is a necessity. For example, if your protagonist is of a different ethnicity to you or your story is set in a part of the world that you have never visited, it's important for you to develop an awareness of cultural differences before you begin your writing.
3. **Make sure you have provisions** Think of them as your survival pack. Your pack will likely contain: tea, coffee (or alternative beverages for those who aren't a fan of hot drinks), snacks, a nice notebook, pens, a memory stick and (not quite a physical item, but) a Twitter handle and/or a Facebook account
4. **Find a space to write** This is very important. You may of course change your space as often as you like, but it's good to try to find your writing space. Whether it's a rotation between your bed, your armchair and a selection of coffee shops or writing on your commute, make sure you find a space that works for you
5. **Do not edit anything** You can do all of your editing in December. The most important thing is that you start writing and keep writing