

# 15 Ways to Never Start Your Novel

*This is an extra resource to go along with the original article:*

[How to Successfully Open Your Story](#)

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1. Prologues of all shapes and sizes— Skip it and dive right into the action
2. A three-page description of the landscape
3. The character waking up to the sound of an alarm clock
4. The character doing regular morning activity (brushing teeth, drinking orange juice, getting dressed, *etc.*)
5. The character looking in the mirror
6. Character description (an in-depth write up on how the character looks, sounds, and behaves)
7. Dialogue (this is often confusing for the reader)
8. A description of the weather (i.e. "It was a crisp Tuesday morning...")
9. The history lesson
10. Summarizing— Show, don't tell
11. The character is dreaming
12. In the middle of a battle or fight scene
13. The first day of doing something (school, work, *etc.*)
14. Introducing too many characters at once (stick with your protagonist and another key character for the first few characters)
15. Oversharing— Allow the story to gradually unfold