

# How *Not* to Write a Sex Scene

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

[\*Make It Sexy: How to Write Sex Scenes\*](#)

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*Here are seven things to avoid when writing a sex scene for your novel:*

## No-No No. 1: Disappointing the Reader

You can make the reader wait but don't disappoint the reader by not including a sex scene that's integral to the story. Your scene doesn't need to be lengthy to be satisfying.

## No-No No. 2: Getting lost in the character's thoughts

While the reader needs to know a little bit of what the character's thinking and feeling, the sex scene needs to focus heavily on the action— show what's happening, but don't muddy the moment with exposition. It will dull the scene's excitement.

## No-No No. 3: Missing the beauty

Unless you're writing a rape scene, sex is meant to be beautiful and soulful. It may appear the vulnerability of your characters, or the way that the light hits their skin. Take a moment to find what's beautiful in the moment and explore it.

## No-No No. 4: Getting Cutesy With Your Word Choice

I love a good euphemism but the ones used for sex can get really cringe-y really quickly. For your consideration: honeypot, the heart of her femininity, bulge, appendage, staff, pink pearl... You get the idea. Instead, the simplest words are often the best. When in doubt, say "penis." This keeps the reader in the action instead of trying to figure out what you mean.

## No-No No. 5: Not Studying Sex Scenes

You're a writer. This is your craft. And this may be your only chance in life to devour a romance novel and watch R-rated movies for work. See how other creatives use sex to explore characterization and take notes.

## No-No No. 6: Writing in Public

Sex is an intimate affair, and it's pretty difficult to write about it when you're with others. If you're doing it right, you'll get a little hot and bothered yourself, and the last place you want to be is in your local cafe when you're flustered.

## No-No No. 7: Edit Furiously

Pro tip: Always remove the word “moist” whenever it pops up in your narrative. A certain portion of the population gets freaked out when they encounter it. It was even voted the most cringe-worthy word in the English language by several outlets.