

# Best Practices for Writing Short Stories

*This is an extra resource to go along with the original article:  
[How Writing Short Stories Can Help You Become a Better Novelist](#)*

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- ★ **Get to the point quickly.** Kurt Vonnegut recommends, “Start as close to the end as possible.” This is extremely relevant for a short story as space is limited
- ★ **Dive into the action quickly, too.** You don’t have a lot of time to build the story so get right into the action and show as you go.
- ★ **Don’t waste too much time outlining and planning.** Create a one-sentence summary of what you’d like the short story to be about and then get to writing.
- ★ **Write the whole.** Sure, it’s a short story, but always write more and then edit the piece rather than not writing enough, as this may force you to add more for clarity or pacing.
- ★ **Don’t take too long to write your short story.** It’s a short story, and it shouldn’t take months to craft. Get most of it down quickly and then go back and edit.
- ★ **Edit, edit, and edit again.** Your first draft is just that-- first. It’s definitely not final, even with a short story. The good news is that a short story is a lot easier to edit than a 300-page novel.