



# How to start a book club



## Decide what type of book club

Decide what kind of book club you want to start. Is the purpose of your book club to read or to socialise? Do you want to read a specific genre, bestsellers, high literature, etc.? Will you stick to one genre, such as crime or Australian literature? Maybe you only want to read debut authors or classics? Or is anything on the table?

## Where and how often to meet

Do you want to meet in someone's home, in a public space, in an online forum? How often do you want to meet? Once a month is the standard, but if you plan on reading longer books you may want to meet every six weeks.

Will you stick to the same day and time for each meeting? To start, allocate a time that works for everyone. After the first meeting, you can decide how long your book club should run – an hour, two hours or maybe even more.

## Invite your members

The ideal size of a book club is between 8 and 16 members. A great way to gather a large diverse group is to invite 3-5 people and ask each of them to invite 3 or 4 friends. You may also want to make a catchy name for your book club.

## Selecting titles

If you've taken the plunge to start your own book club, it's likely you've got a title in mind. From there, perhaps each person gets to pick one book in turn, or maybe at the end of each meeting people can suggest books to be put to a vote. You might find your group loved a particular title and decide to read something else by the same author, something else from that genre or with similar themes. Some clubs even choose their books for the year ahead.

## Read and explore

There's a huge amount of information available about most authors and titles. Dig a little deeper to surprise and delight your book buddies with interesting facts and trivia. You can also search around for extra content, such as recipes, author Q&As or videos; things to add a different slant to your discussion.

## Meet and discuss

Hold your first book club meeting and see how it goes. From there, you might want to adjust the time or topics (or people you invite). With the first one under your belt, you'll get a sense of how the book club can be best run to everyone's enjoyment.

## Useful resources

Book Clubs Hub Resources

[bookclubshub.com/resources/](https://bookclubshub.com/resources/)

Good Reading Magazine:

[www.goodreadingmagazine.com.au](https://www.goodreadingmagazine.com.au)

LitLovers: a well-read online community

[www.litlovers.com](https://www.litlovers.com)

Pan MacMillan Reading Notes

[www.panmacmillan.com.au/reading-notes/](https://www.panmacmillan.com.au/reading-notes/)

Penguin Book Club Notes

[www.penguin.com.au/book-clubs](https://www.penguin.com.au/book-clubs)

Reading Group Choices

[readinggroupchoices.com/](https://readinggroupchoices.com/)

Reading Group Guide: The online community for reading groups

[www.readinggroupguides.com](https://www.readinggroupguides.com)

Simon & Schuster Book Clubs

[www.simonandschuster.com.au/c/ss-au-bookclubs](https://www.simonandschuster.com.au/c/ss-au-bookclubs)