

# Find Time To Write

By Dianna Love Snell

You're a busy person. Between work, family, personal commitments and those unexpected curve balls life throws at you just to keep things interesting, it's tough finding the time to write. Trust me, I understand. I listen to writers at every conference talk about how they wish they had more time.

I can sympathize - to a point - because those who really want to write their stories will find a way. That's the cold hard truth. You have to decide how bad you want to complete a novel, how committed you are to this goal. I'll give you some tips, but they come with a catch.

The catch? You have to be honest with yourself. Do you enjoy dabbling with stories and writing scenes, but can put your writing away for a month or more at a time? Or does a story wear on you constantly while you're away from the keyboard? Do you make self-imposed deadlines only to let them slip past because it's not a real deadline? Or do you mark the day on the calendar you will finish your book and work every week toward that goal just as if you were studying to get a degree?

I'm going to assume you are determined to finish your book and willing to give up some luxury time or make some deals to reach your goal. Did you scoff at possibility of "luxury time" in your week? I'll bet you have some. Do you watch television at night? Do you read the newspaper each day or a magazine during the month? Do you have lunch with co-workers? These all fall under the heading of luxury time, because you have a choice in each of these situations.

If you're really serious about writing your story, here are some tips:

Explain to friends and family that you are serious about writing a book, then enlist their help to support you reach your goal. To begin with, stay away from email (this has to be the number one villain for sidetracking writers.) If you can't stay away, invest in something like an AlphaSmart word processor ([www.alphasmart.com](http://www.alphasmart.com)) so you can write without email access so available.

Skip television programs (don't even tape them, because you're still taking time to watch the show at some point). Cut out any really unnecessary reading – but when you do read make it a book in the genre you are targeting.

Cut your miscellaneous phone conversations down to 5 minutes so your phone time is spent on significant purposes.

Get up an hour earlier in the morning or stay up an hour later at night if you're a night owl. Bring your lunch to work and write during your lunch hour.

On your drive to work, put your cell phone on silent, turn off the radio and "think" about your story, but pay attention to traffic. If you get to work an hour early to write before you start your day, this thinking time will pay off to get you typing quickly.

If you are a stay at home mom with small children – work a trade with another mom to watch her children in exchange for watching yours.

Those are just a few ideas, but you'll come up with more once you start taking a critical look at your week.

That's all for now from me, because I'm off to write on my novel.

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