

SHORT STORY CHECKLIST

For detailed guidelines, see: [writers.com/how-to-write-a-short-story-the-short-story-checklist](https://www.writers.com/how-to-write-a-short-story-the-short-story-checklist)

LENGTH

- 1000-7500 words in length
- The story has one time period
- Each scene has one location

POINT OF VIEW

- There is one POV per scene

PROTAGONIST

- There is one protagonist
- The protagonist grows the most
- There is one antagonist

CHARACTERS

- Characters speak uniquely
- The dialogue has subtext
- They feel like real people

PROSE

- Your language is succinct
- Word choice is fresh and inviting
- You avoid clichés and platitudes

STRUCTURE

- Your story follows Act Structure
- You explore uncertainties
- The structure has internal logic

INTEREST

- Each sentence is compelling
- Your story entertains the reader
- The story begins with a hook
- You use little expository prose