

## What's the difference between structural editing and copyediting?

Editors carry out two types of editing: structural editing and copyediting.

**Structural editing** involves a review of content, language, structure and style. At this stage editors may suggest rearranging paragraphs or sentences to make your work more accessible to readers, clearer and more cohesive, and suggest some rewording. They may also assess or suggest concepts for design, illustration and format.

**Copyeditors** check your manuscript carefully, line by line, to ensure clarity of meaning, consistency of style, layout and the kind of details noted under structural editing. They correct spelling, grammar and punctuation; they also check illustrations, tables, links and sequences in your work. Their focus is the removal of mistakes or inconsistencies that could confuse or turn off your intended audience, not to mention a reader in a publishing house.

Your editor is likely to do both structural editing and copyediting.



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— From IPEd, the Institute of Professional Editors