ASTRALX/STUDIO

FREE CHECKLIST · AMAZON KDP · UPDATED NOV 2026

KDP Royalty Leak Checklist

Thirteen places self-published authors quietly lose money on Amazon, including the July 2026 price-band change and the move from Kindle Unlimited to Kindle+.

Ebook prices

- [ ] **Every ebook on the 70% option sits between $2.99 and $12.99**
  On Amazon.com the 70% band now runs to $12.99. Outside the band you're paid 35%, whatever you selected.

- [ ] **Books priced $10 to $12.99 are switched to 70%**
  Live books weren't moved automatically when the band widened. Open each one and check the royalty option.

- [ ] **Image-heavy files are compressed**
  The 70% option deducts a delivery fee per MB ($0.15 on Amazon.com). Large photos and maps quietly eat into every sale.

- [ ] **Other marketplaces are checked too**
  Each has its own band. In Brazil, Japan, India and Mexico the 70% rate needs KDP Select.

Kindle+ (formerly Kindle Unlimited)

- [ ] **You know which titles are in KDP Select**
  Kindle Unlimited was renamed Kindle+ in October 2026. Enrolled ebooks earn a share of pages read or listened to by Kindle+ subscribers.

- [ ] **Your audiobooks can earn from Kindle+ listening**
  Virtual Voice audiobooks are enrolled automatically with their ebook; ACX audiobooks can be unenrolled separately. Kindle+ audiobooks are US-only for now.

- [ ] **You compare reading and listening**
  Kindle+ pays by pages read or listened to, so check which format your enrolled titles earn from in your reports.

Print

- [ ] **Paperbacks priced at $9.99 or more where it makes sense**
  Paperbacks pay 60% of list price at $9.99 and up, but 50% below it, minus printing. $9.98 can cost you more than a cent.

- [ ] **Print cost checked against page count**
  Black-ink paperbacks cost a fixed fee plus a per-page charge. Trim, margins and font size change the page count, and the margin.

- [ ] **Expanded Distribution is a choice, not a default**
  It pays 40% minus printing. Worth it for reach, but know what each copy earns.

Missing money

- [ ] **Formats you haven't published**
  Paperback, hardcover, a Virtual Voice audiobook, or a Kindle Translate edition each reach readers you don't have yet.

- [ ] **Tax interview completed**
  Without it, US royalties can be withheld at the default rate. Your country's tax treaty may lower it.

- [ ] **Payment set up for every marketplace**
  Check that royalties from smaller marketplaces are actually reaching you.

Want it checked for you?

The KDP royalty audit goes through your whole catalog and returns a fix list with the money at stake. See a sample or order on Fiverr.

Sources

- KDP Help: eBook royalties
- Written Word Media: Kindle+ for authors
- KDP Help: delivery costs ($0.15/MB)
- KDP Help: paperback royalty (60%, 50%, 40%)
- KDP Help: printing cost
- KDP Help: Kindle+ and audiobooks
- KDP Help: tax withholding (30% default)

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