

Pacing Checklist

1. Action and Momentum

- Does your story start with an engaging moment or event that grabs the reader's attention?
- Do your action scenes feel quick and exciting? (Tip: Use short sentences and avoid too much description.)
- Are there moments where the story slows down for reflection or character development?

2. Balance Between Fast and Slow Moments

- Does your story have a mix of fast-paced scenes (action, tension, dialogue) and slower-paced scenes (description, introspection, backstory)?
- After an intense scene, do you include a quieter moment to let the reader catch their breath?
- Does the pace feel consistent, or do some sections feel too rushed or too slow?

3. Scene Length and Placement

- Are your scenes the right length for their purpose? (Short for action, longer for emotional depth or worldbuilding.)
- Do your scenes flow logically from one to the next?
- Are there any scenes that feel unnecessary or drag the story down?

4. Sentence Structure

- Are you varying your sentence lengths? (Short sentences for urgency, longer ones for reflection.)
- Do your sentences match the tone of the scene? (Fast and punchy for action, slower and descriptive for calm moments.)

5. Emotional Engagement

- Are there moments where the reader can connect emotionally with your characters? (Slow pacing works well for this.)
- Do your fast-paced moments create tension and excitement?

6. Testing Your Pacing

- Have you read your story out loud? Does the pacing feel natural when spoken?
- Have you asked someone else to read your story and give feedback on whether it feels too fast or too slow?