

book<sup>1</sup>

S1 W1

/bʊk/

noun

**1 | printed pages** [countable] **accounts** a set of printed pages that are held together in a cover so that you can read them:

*I've just started reading a book by Graham Greene.*

*a cookery book*

**book about/on**

*a book about cats*

**2 | to write in** [countable] **WRITE** a set of sheets of paper held together in a cover so that you can write on them:

*a black address book*

*a notebook*

**3 | set of things** [countable] **GROUP OF THINGS** a set of things such as stamps, matches, or tickets, held together inside a paper cover:

*a cheque book*

**4 books** [plural]

a)

written records of the financial accounts of a business:

*An accountant will examine the company's books.*

*a small firm that is having problems **balancing the books***  
(= keeping its profits and spending equal)

**on the books**

*They have £50 billion worth of orders on the books.*

→ **cook the books** AT COOK<sup>1</sup> (3)

b) **jobs**

the names of people who use a company's services, or who are sent by a company to work for other people:

**on somebody's books**

*an agent with a lot of popular actors on his books*

**5 by the book** **OBEY**

exactly according to rules or instructions:

*She feels she has to **go by the book** and can't use her creativity.*

**do/play something by the book**

*The police were careful to do everything by the book.*

## 6 **a closed book** UNDERSTAND

a subject that you do not understand or know anything about:

*Chemistry is a closed book to me.*

## 7 **be in somebody's good/bad books** (informal) SATISFIED/ANNOY

used to say that someone is pleased or annoyed with you

## 8 **law be on the books**

if a law is on the books, it is part of the set of laws in a country, town, area etc

## 9 **part of a book** [COUNTABLE] PART one of the parts that a very large book such as the Bible is divided into:

**book of**

*the Book of Isaiah*

## 10 **in my book** THINK/HAVE THE OPINION THAT (spoken)

said when giving your opinion:

*In my book, nothing is more important than football.*

## 11 **bring somebody to book**

to punish someone for breaking laws or rules, especially when you have been trying to punish them for a long time:

*War criminals must be brought to book.*

→ STATUTE BOOK,

→ **take a leaf out of somebody's book** AT LEAF<sup>1</sup> (2),

→ **read somebody like a book** AT READ<sup>1</sup> (16),

→ **suit somebody's book** AT SUIT<sup>2</sup> (5),

→ **a turn-up for the book** AT TURN-UP (2),

→ **throw the book at somebody** AT THROW<sup>1</sup> (26)

## verbs

read a book *What book are you reading at the moment?*

look through a book (= look at the pages quickly) *I looked through the book until I found the right section.*

write a book *He's written several interesting travel books.*

publish a book *The book is published by Penguin.*

a book comes out (= it is published for the first time) *Everyone was waiting for the new Harry Potter book to come out.*

borrow a book (also take out a book **BrE**) (= from a library) *You can borrow up to six books from the library.*

return a book (= to a library) *Please return all your books before the end of term.*

renew a book (= arrange to continue borrowing it from a library) *If you need to renew a book, you can do it by phone.*

## book + NOUN

a book shop

(also book store **AmE**)

*I got it from that little book shop in the village.*

a book seller (= a person, shop, or company selling books) *High street book sellers are experiencing a drop in sales.*

a book token (**BrE**) (= a ticket that you can use to pay for a book) *She always bought me book tokens for my birthday.*

a book review (= an article giving critical opinions of a book) *She had a book review published in the student magazine.*

a book fair (= an event at which publishers and authors show new books)

the introduction/preface/foreword to a book *In the introduction to this book I referred to a conversation between myself and a young student.*

a section of a book *The most useful section of the book is the list of suppliers of artists' materials.*

## phrases

the cover of a book *His picture is on the cover of the book.*

a chapter of a book *The first chapter of the book is about his*

## THESAURUS

### types of book

**novel** **noun** [countable] a book about imaginary people and events: *The film is based on Nick Hornby's best-selling novel. | a historical novel*

**fiction** **noun** [uncountable] books that describe imaginary people and events: *She reads a lot of romantic fiction.*

**literature** **noun** [uncountable] novels and plays that are considered to be important works of art: *I'm studying American literature at university.*

**non-fiction** **noun** [uncountable] books that describe real people and events: *Men tend to prefer non-fiction.*

**science fiction** **noun** [uncountable] books about imaginary events in the future or space travel

**reference book** **noun** [countable] a book such as a dictionary or encyclopedia, which you look at to find information

**textbook** **noun** [countable] a book about a particular subject that you use in a classroom

**set book** (*BrE*), **course book** (*BrE*) **noun** [countable] a book that you have to study as part of your course

**guidebook** **noun** [countable] a book telling visitors about a city or country

**picture book** **noun** [countable] a book for children with many pictures in it

**hardcover/ hardback** **noun** [countable] a book that has a hard stiff cover

**paperback** **noun** [countable] a book that has a paper cover

**biography** **noun** [countable] a book about a real person's life, written by another person

**autobiography** **noun** [countable] a book that someone has written about their own life

**recipe book/ cookery book** (*BrE*) (*also* **cookbook** *AmE*)  
**noun** [countable] a book that tells you how to cook different meals

### Word origin

**Language:** Old English

**Origin:** *boc*

*Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English*

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