Puzzle Book KDP Publishing Checklist

A printable, step by step checklist for publishing a Sudoku, word search or maze book as a KDP paperback. Tick each box before you press Publish. Trim, bleed and margin figures follow the KDP Help page "Set Trim Size, Bleed, and Margins" as checked in November 2026. KDP can change its rules, so check KDP Help before you publish.

1. Plan the book

- ☐ Pick one audience (kids, adults, seniors, travel) and one main puzzle type.
- ☐ Pick a difficulty mix and write it down (for example 40 easy, 40 medium, 20 hard).
- ☐ Search Amazon for 5 similar books and note their trim size, page count and price.
- ☐ Decide how many puzzles per page. Large print usually means 1 per page.
- ☐ Write a working title and subtitle with the puzzle type, audience and count (for example "100 Large Print Word Search Puzzles").

2. Trim size, margins and bleed

Setting	Common choice	Notes
Trim size	6 x 9 in, 8.5 x 11 in	8.5 x 11 is common for large print and kids books.
Bleed	No bleed for most interiors	With bleed, page size grows by 0.125 in wide and 0.25 in tall.
Outside margins	At least 0.25 in (no bleed)	At least 0.375 in with bleed. More looks better; 0.5 in is a safe habit.
Inside (gutter) margin	Depends on page count	24 to 150 pages: 0.375 in. 151 to 300: 0.5 in. 301 to 500: 0.625 in. 501 to 700: 0.75 in. 701 to 828: 0.875 in.
Page count	Minimum 24 pages	Count front matter and solutions too. 8.5 x 11 paperbacks top out at 590 pages on white paper.

3. Build the interior

- ☐ Title page, copyright page and a short "how to play" page are in place.
- ☐ Every puzzle has a matching solution, and solutions are grouped at the back with clear numbers.
- ☐ Puzzle numbers on the puzzle pages match the numbers on the solution pages.
- ☐ Grid lines and letters are dark enough to print well (avoid light gray text).
- ☐ Large print books use a big, plain font (around 16 to 20 pt letters in word search grids).
- ☐ No puzzle or word list runs into the margin or gutter.
- ☐ Fonts are embedded in the PDF. Check with File > Properties > Fonts in your PDF reader.
- ☐ Export one PDF for the interior, same trim size as the KDP setup.

4. Cover

- ☐ Use the KDP cover calculator or template for your exact trim, page count and paper type.
- ☐ Spine text only if your page count allows it (KDP requires more than 79 pages for spine text).

- [ ] Title is readable as a small thumbnail on a phone screen.
- [ ] Cover PDF includes bleed and the barcode area is left clear if KDP adds the barcode.

5. Listing details

- [ ] Title and subtitle say what the buyer gets: puzzle type, count, audience, print size.
- [ ] Description lists puzzle count, difficulty levels, solutions included and trim size.
- [ ] Seven keyword slots filled with phrases buyers type, not repeated words from the title.
- [ ] Two categories chosen that match similar best sellers.
- [ ] Low content book setting reviewed. Puzzle books with solutions often are not low content; read the KDP definition.
- [ ] Price checked against the 5 similar books and your printing cost.
- [ ] AI content question answered honestly if any text or images were generated with AI.

6. Proof and publish

- [ ] Upload the interior and cover, then open the KDP online previewer and look at every page.
- [ ] Fix every previewer warning about margins, bleed or low resolution.
- [ ] Order a printed proof copy and solve a few puzzles from it.
- [ ] Check that the solutions are correct for at least 5 random puzzles.
- [ ] Publish, then plan the next book in the same series while the first one gets reviews.

Series planner

Book	Puzzle type	Audience	Trim	Pages	Status
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					