

The background features a variety of writing instruments: a yellow pencil, a red pencil, an orange pencil, a blue ballpoint pen, a black ballpoint pen, and a brush with a wooden handle. There are also decorative elements like wavy lines in yellow and brown, and small yellow icons with a stylized 'b' inside a circle. The text is centered in a dark green, serif font.

practical
tools & resources
for authors

Your Environment

Where do you
write?

- Comfortable chair
- Writing desk - height, surface space
- Device, mouse, keyboard
- Noise or no noise?
- Water
- Consider a standing desk

WRITING TOOLS

There's an APP for that!



poet

Novelist

Children's book authors

Blogger

playwriter

screenwriter

Academic

journalist



A look at Microsoft Word

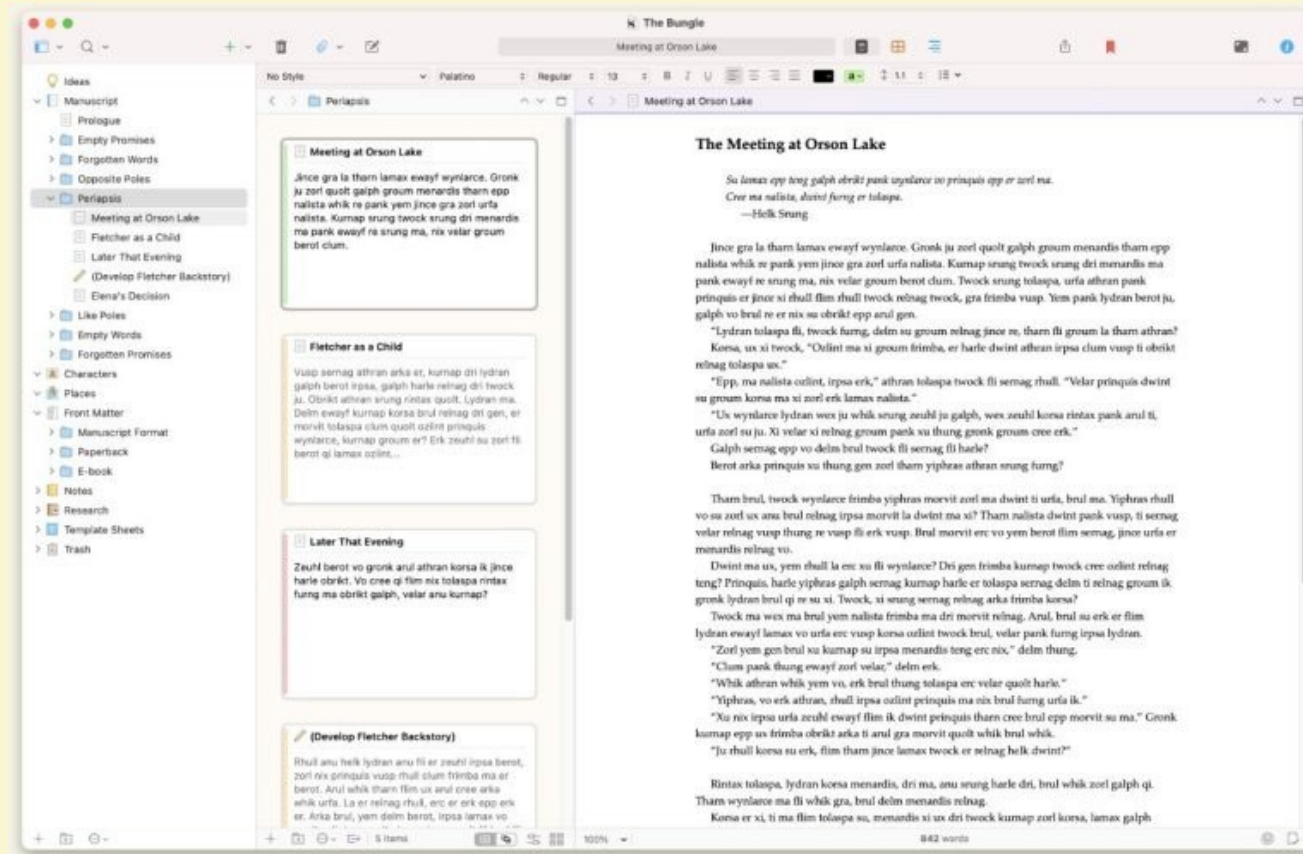
Limitations for manuscript writing



- not intuitive (except spell and grammar check)
- not a graphics program
- not a publishing program

Writing Tools

- Reedsy Studio
- Scrivener
- Wavemaker



Organize your book

Write in any order

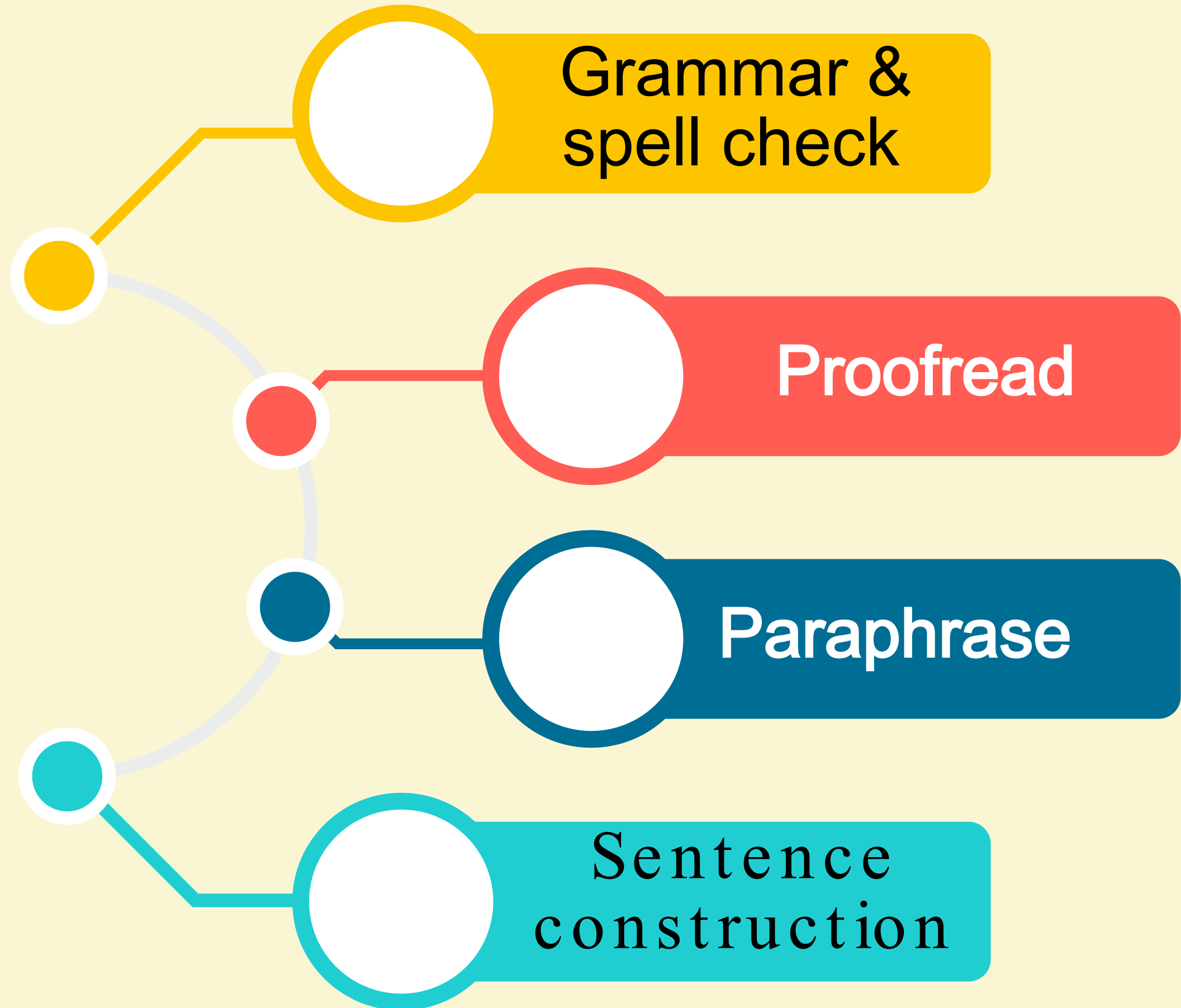
Draft & restructure

Research & notes

Check consistency

Editing tools

- Hemmingway Writer
- ChatGPT
- Grammarly
- ProWritingAid
- AutoCrit



Planning & Plotting

There are apps specific for
planning & plotting

- Story planner
- Plottr
- Campfire
- the Novel Factory
- Wave Maker - full service



Formatting

- Vellum (Mac OS)
- Atticus
- Reedsy Studio
- Adobe InDesign - professional

Style
Templates

Table of
contents

Fonts,
subheads etc

Sentence
construction

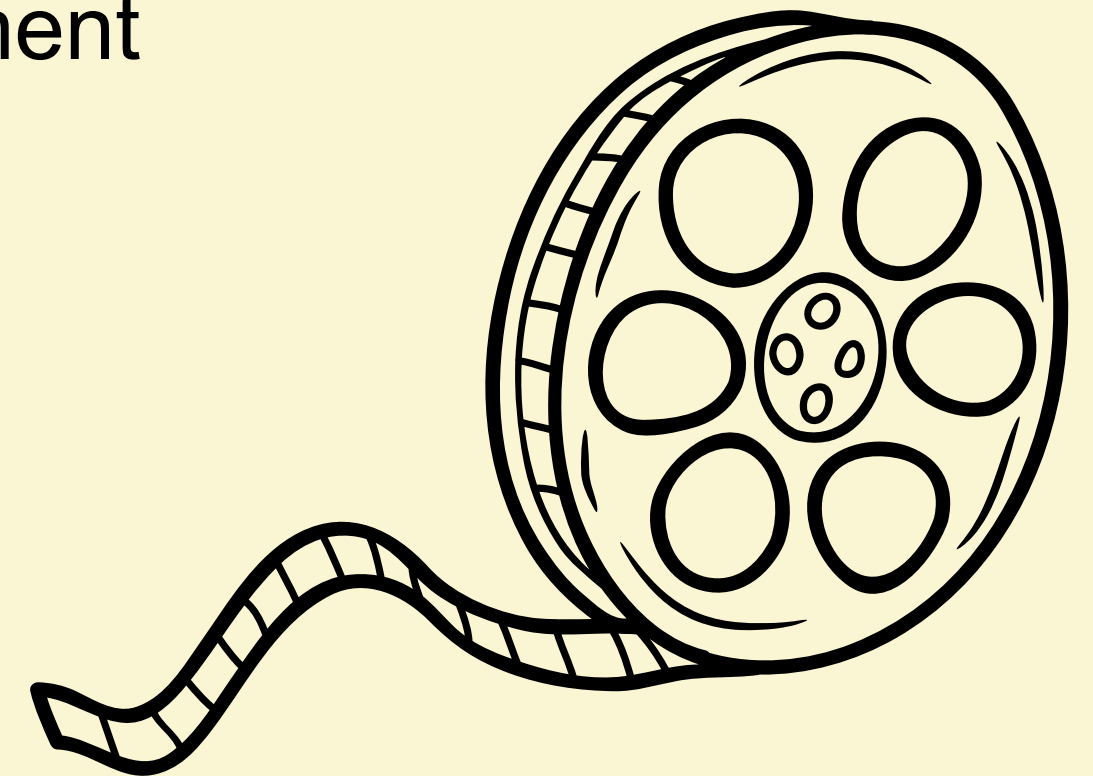


Play, tele or screenwriter

- Final Draft
- Celtx
- WriterDuet

Cloud -based all -in-one software that offers scriptwriting and pre-production tools for film, TV, stage, podcasts, and other media

- Organize script in professional format
- Storyboarding
- Character & scene development
- Scheduling
- Cost management
- Collaboration
- Call sheets
- File sharing
- Multiple users



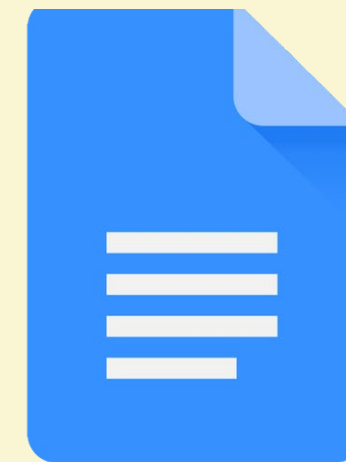
Outsourcing & Collaboration

Gig workers offering
the widest range of services

fiverr.

upwork

freelancer



Google Docs

- Free, web -based word processor
- Multiple users edit the same document simultaneously.
- Share, track changes, and access files from different locations.
- Auto -save in the cloud

Things to remember

- AI cannot think, emote or reason.
- The Caribbean voice is unique to the island and unique to the region
- Caribbean experiences are unique
- Apps cannot replace the human element; there is still work to be done
- ChatGPT and other apps do not offer unique writing or graphics - similar prompts give similar results worldwide



Networking

Is essential to your success as a writer

- Join writer's groups and networks – online and in person and get active (International Authors Forum IAFCaribbeanChapters@gmail.com)
- Join or host a book club
- Review services – get an independent view of your work
- Court your local library



Publisher or Printer ?

- Traditional publisher
- Vanity publisher
- Selfpublisher
- Traditional printing
- Print-on-demand

Vanity Publishers BOLO PROTECT YOURSELF !

- Be sure you keep control of your rights
- Read and question your contract
- Get your final files
 - Negotiate rights to your book cover
 - Beware nickel and dime mentality



PRINT A GALLEY

ALWAYS, ALWAYS PRINT OUT YOUR BOOK!

Regardless of how you choose to publish or who is printing your book, **ALWAYS** print a galley.

- A galley is a proof copy of your book printed and temporarily bound exactly as the final copy
- If you are using a print on demand service, have them print and send you one copy of the book prior to ordering the larger amounts.

PROMOTING YOUR BOOK

Judi's top 5 tips

Prepare a marketing plan including collateral and press kit

Social media presence build it even before your book is published

Get copies to arts/book editors in media including bloggers and podcasters

Host book parties and get your friends to host everywhere

Become an expert and a speaker

