WORKS

© copyrightliteracy.org 2019 CC-BY-NC-SA
**Protects:** The creative ‘ordering of words’.

**Examples:** Books, journals, poems, lyrics, letters, diaries, legal documents, oral histories, emails, blogs, software.

**Duration:** Published – usually 70 years following death of author; Unpublished – either 70 years from death of author or 31 Dec 2039 (whichever is later).
Artistic

**Protects:** Creative ‘visual’ works.

**Examples:** Paintings, drawings, sketches, sculptures, photographs, maps, logos, charts, graphs.

**Duration:** Published - usually 70 years following death of author; Unpublished - either 70 years from death of author or 31 Dec 2039 (whichever is later) Photographs from 20th century - differing durations.
**Protects:** The creative ordering of musical notes, or ‘combination of sounds for listening to’.

**Examples:** Pop songs, symphonies, jingles, film scores, arrangements of folk songs.

**Duration:** **Published** - usually 70 years following death of author; **Unpublished** - either 70 years from death of author or 31 Dec 2039 (whichever is later).

**Note:** The copyright in a piece of music is separate from the copyright in a sound recording of that music.
Protects: Dialogue and stage directions in a performed work, or an act of dance or mime.

Examples: Plays, film scripts, ballets, revues.

Duration: Published / performed - usually 70 years following death of author; Unpublished/unperformed - either 70 years from death of author or 31 Dec 2039 (whichever is later).
**Protects:** The broadcasting of audio and audio-visual material. This is a separate right from the copyright in the film or sound recordings that are being broadcast.

**Examples:** Any radio or television transmission made by electronic means, but not an internet transmission.

**Duration:** 50 years from the year when first broadcast.
**Protects:** Recording of sound in any ‘fixed form’.

**Examples:** Musical recordings, film and TV soundtracks, oral history, recordings, recordings of public speeches.

**Duration:** 70 years from the year of release, or 50 years from the year of creation (if unreleased).

**Note:** Many sound recordings include underlying musical, dramatic or literary copyright works.
Film

**Protects:** Audio-visual recordings.

**Examples:** TV programmes, movies, home videos, filmed animation.

**Duration:** 70 years following the death of the last to die from:

- the director
- author of the screenplay
- author of the dialogue or
- composer of music specifically created for the film.
**Protects:** The typographical layout of a published edition.

**Examples:** The typeset appearance of published books, newspapers and journals.

**Duration:** 25 years from publication.
When copyright in a work expires, or has been waived by the copyright owner, it passes into the ‘public domain’, and it can be used without permission.

**Protects:** No copyright protection applies to the work.

**Examples:** Any published, creative work where the author died more than 70 years ago. Any work where the author has waived their copyright with a Creative Commons Zero (CC0) dedication.
**Protects:** Databases can be copyright literary works, or protected by EU database rights (known as *sui generis*).

**Examples:** Directories, commercial databases, scientific research datasets.

**Duration:** 15 years from the year of creation, or the last time the database was updated.
**Moral Rights**

**Protects:** The author’s rights in a work as his or her ‘spiritual child’. Includes the right to be named as author and not to have the work treated in a derogatory manner.

**Examples:** The assertion in the front of a book - e.g. “JK Rowling has asserted her right to be identified as the author of this work”

**Duration:** In the UK moral rights have the same duration as the copyright work, except for the right of false attribution which lasts for 20 years after the person’s death.
**Performance**

**Protects:** Musical or dramatic performances as fixed in a film or sound recording.

**Examples:** Acting, musical performance, lecture, public recital or presentation.

**Duration:** 70 years from the year of release or 50 years from the year of performance (if unreleased).

**Note:** Although it is open to debate, many educational establishments assume it is likely that recordings of lectures qualify as performances.
Non Qualifying

**Protects:** There is no copyright protection for something that is not a ‘fixed’ expression of human creativity.

**Examples:** An idea that is not written down, a natural occurrence, a matter of fact, an abstract concept (e.g. love)

**Duration:** There is no copyright, so no duration of copyright.
Protecs: Copyright material created under direction or control of His/Her Majesty or a government department.


Duration: Various durations apply*, but typically copyright of published works lasts 50 years from publication and unpublished last for 125 years from creation.

Note: Contrasts with situation in the US where government works pass immediately into the public domain.

* See nationalarchives.gov.uk