**Requirements for copyright protection**

The following three requirements must all be met in order for copyright to subsist in a [work](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/works/):

* **The**[**work**](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/works/)**must be reduced to**[**material form**](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/material-form/)**.**
An idea itself will not receive copyright protection. The idea must be reduced to [material form](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/material-form/) (whether it is written, recorded (including in musical or dance notation), filmed, painted, etc) before it is capable of copyright protection. The idea will only receive protection in the form in which it is expressed.
* **The**[**work**](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/works/)**must be made by a qualified person.**
To be a qualified person, an [author](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/author/) of a [work](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/works/) must be a citizen or resident of either Australia or a country to which Australia has promised copyright protection under international treaties and conventions. Most foreign copyright owners are also protected under international treaties such as the Berne Convention.
* **The**[**work**](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/works/)**must be original and the result of the**[**author’s**](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/author/)**skill and effort.**
The [work](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/works/) must be original. This does not mean the [work](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/works/) must be novel or unique but the [work](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/works/) must not be a slavish [copy](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/copy/) of another [work](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/works/). The [work](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/works/) must be the product of the [author’s](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/author/) independent skill and effort. The [work](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/works/) does not have to be aesthetic in order to gain copyright protection. For example, accounting forms, football coupons and racing programs have been regarded by the courts as [literary works](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/literary-works/) capable of copyright protection.