

Sample Chapter Selector Guide



*Guide to choose the perfect vocal
development chapters for character
development*

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Introduction

Why Sample Chapters Matter

The chapters you choose for voice samples serve multiple purposes:

✓ VOICE DEVELOPMENT

Help me understand your characters and create authentic voices

✓ MILESTONE CHECK-INS

Give you confidence that the narration matches your vision

✓ RETAIL SAMPLE

The first 5 minutes becomes your Audible preview - your sales tool!

✓ MARKETING ASSETS

Selected scenes become promotional clips for social media

Choosing the right chapters ensures the best possible audiobook and maximizes your sales potential.

01 Types of Samples You'll Need

Initial Voice Samples (Pre-Production)

Purpose: Develop and approve character voices before full recording

Length: 3-5 minutes per main character

When: Before recording begins

Your Task: Review and approve voices

Milestone Samples (During Production)

Purpose: Verify quality, consistency, and artistic interpretation

Length: 15-25 minutes at key checkpoints

When: 25% and 50% completion

Your Task: Provide feedback on any concerns

Retail Sample (For Audible/ACX)

Purpose: Hook potential listeners and drive sales

Length: First 5 minutes (auto-generated by ACX)

When: Final Delivery

Your Task: Ensure opening is compelling

02

Initial Voice Samples: Character Introduction

What to Look For in Voice Sample Chapters

✓ CHAPTER INTRODUCTION

The first time we meet this character, or early in their arc

✓ PERSONALITY ON DISPLAY

A scene that showcases their core traits and speaking style

✓ EMOTIONAL RANGE

Includes at least 2-3 different emotions (happy, frustrated, vulnerable, etc)

✓ DIALOGUE-HEAVY

Plenty of spoken dialogue, not just internal monologue or description

✓ INTERACTION WITH OTHERS

Shows how they speak to different people (love interest, friends, enemies)

✓ REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BOOK

Captures the overall tone and vibe of your story

Ideal Length: 3-5 minutes

This equals approximately:

- 450-750 words
- 1.5-2.5 pages (standard formatting)
- One complete scene or conversation

Chapter Selecton Checklist

- Clear character voice and personality
- Dialogue (not just narration)
- At least 2 different emotions
- Interaction with another character
- Representative of Character's arc
- Early in the book (first 25%)
- No major spoilers
- Showcases what makes this character unique

Examples of Great Voice Sample Scenes

For the Protagonist:

- ✓ First day at new job (nervous but trying to appear confident)
- ✓ Confrontation with antagonist (angry, defensive strong)
- ✓ Conversation with best friend (relaxed, authentic, vulnerable)
- ✓ Meeting the love interest (flustered, attracted, guarded)

For the Love Interest:

- ✓ Introduction scene from their POV
- ✓ Flirty banter with protagonist (playful, confident, charming)
- ✓ Moment of vulnerability (showing depth beyond surface)
- ✓ Protective moment (revealing their caring nature)

For Paranormal Characters:

- ✓ Using their powers (showcasing otherworldly qualities)
- ✓ Explaining supernatural lore (authoritative, knowledgeable)
- ✓ Struggling with their nature (internal conflict)

03

Milestone Samples Quality Check-Ins

25% Milestone Sample

Purpose: Early quality check and voice consistency verification

Length: 15-20 minutes

Content: I'll select from the first quarter of your book

What It'll Include:

- Multiple character voices
- Various emotional scenes
- Technical quality demonstration
- Pacing and tone samples

Your Task:

Review for:

- Character voice match approved samples
- Pacing feels right
- Emotional beats landing correctly
- Technical quality (clear audio, no issues)
- Overall satisfaction with artistic interpretation

50% Milestone Sample

Purpose: CRITICAL checkpoint before completing recording

Length: 20-25 minutes

Content: I'll select key scenes from the middle section

What It'll Include:

- Romantic/intimate scenes (if applicable)
- Character relationship dynamics
- Emotional high points
- Voice consistency check

Your Task:

⚠️ LAST CHANCE for major adjustments!

Review for:

- Romantic chemistry working
- Intimate scenes handled appropriately
- Character growth reflected in voices
- Emotional depth and authenticity
- Any concerns before final quarter

IMPORTANT:

After 50% approval, only minor correction can be made without significant timeline impact.

04

Retail Sample: Your Audible Hook

The First 5 Minutes are Critical

CX automatically creates your retail sample from the FIRST 5 MINUTES of your audiobook (including opening credits).

This sample is what potential listeners hear before buying!

What Makes a Great Opening?

✓ IMMEDIATE HOOK

Start with action, conflict, or intrigue - not backstory

✓ STRONG VOICE

Showcase your narrator's skill and character voices immediately

✓ GENRE CLARITY

Make it obvious this is romance (and what sub-genre)

✓ EMOTIONAL CONNECTION

Give listeners a reason to care about the character

✓ COMPELLING NARRATION

Professional quality that makes them want more

✓ REPRESENTATIVE TONE

Matches the overall vibe of your book

Evaluating Your Opening

- Does it hook listeners in the first 30 second?
- Is the protagonist's voice engaging and distinctive?
- Does it showcase the romance genre clearly?
- Would YOU keep listening if you hear this sample?
- Does it avoid info-dumps or slow exposition?
- Is there dialogue within the first 2 minutes?
- Does it create questions that make listeners curious?

Common Opening Mistakes to Avoid

✗ STARTING WITH BACKSTORY

"Ten years ago, Sarah had left her hometown..."

→ Boring! Start with present action.

✗ EXCESSIVE WORLD-BUILDING

Long explanations of magic systems, history, politics

→ Save it for later. Hook them first.

✗ WEATHER DESCRIPTIONS

"It was a dark and stormy night..."

→ Cliché and slow. Get to the character.

X WAKING UP SCENES

Character waking up, getting ready, routine morning

→ Overdone. Start with something interesting.

X PROLOGUE CONFUSION

Prologue with different characters/time period

→ Can confuse listeners about who to follow.

Fix a Weak Opening

If your book starts slowly, consider:

OPTION 1: REWRITE THE OPENING

Best for: Books with slow first chapters

Action: Write a new, hookier opening specifically for audio

OPTION 2: START AT CHAPTER 2

Best for: Books where action starts in Chapter 2

Action: Skip Chapter 1, add brief context if needed

OPTION 3: ADD A TEASER PROLOGUE

Best for: Books with exciting moments later

Action: Pull a dramatic scene from later as a "teaser," then

"Rewind to where it all began..."

OPTION 4: CUSTOM INTRO

Best for: Series books or established authors

Action: Add a 30-60 second author introduction that hooks listeners

We can discuss these options during pre-production!

05

Marketing Clips: Promotional Samples

Purpose of Marketing Clips

After your audiobook is complete, I'll create 3-4 promotional clips for your marketing use:

- 15-second teaser (Instagram/TikTok)
- 30-second promo (Facebook/Instagram ads)
- 60-second extended sample (YouTube/website)
- Audiogram snippets (social media posts)

What Makes a Great Marketing Clip?

✓ SWOON-WORTHY MOMENTS

Romantic, emotional, or sexy scenes that make readers want more

✓ NO SPOILERS

Intriguing but doesn't give away plot twists

✓ STANDALONE

Makes sense without context

✓ **EMOTIONALLY COMPELLING**

Makes listeners feel something

✓ **SHOWCASES NARRATION**

Highlights voice acting and production quality

✓ **GENRE-APPROPRIATE**

Clearly romance, clearly your subgenre

Ideal Scenes for Marketing Clips

Romantic Moments:

- ✓ First kiss
- ✓ Declaration of love
- ✓ Tender/vulnerable confession
- ✓ Steamy/intimate moment (if appropriate for your audience)
- ✓ Reunion after separation
- ✓ Protective/swoony gesture

Emotional Moments:

- ✓ Heartbreak or betrayal
- ✓ Moment of realization
- ✓ Powerful internal monologue
- ✓ Climactic confrontation
- ✓ Triumphant victory

Chemistry/Banter:

- ✓ Witty dialogue exchange
- ✓ Sexual tension
- ✓ Enemies-to-lovers sparring
- ✓ Playful teasing
- ✓ "I hate that I love you" moment

Marketing Clip Worksheet

Identify 5-10 potential scenes for marketing clips:

SCENE 1: _____

Chapter: _____ Page: _____

Type: Romantic Emotional Banter Steamy

Why it's great: _____

SCENE 2: _____

Chapter: _____ Page: _____

Type: Romantic Emotional Banter Steamy

Why it's great: _____

SCENE 3: _____

Chapter: _____ Page: _____

Type: Romantic Emotional Banter Steamy

Why it's great: _____

SCENE 4: _____

Chapter: _____ Page: _____

Type: Romantic Emotional Banter Steamy

06

Sample Selection Worksheet

Use this worksheet to identify your sample chapters!

Initial Voice Samples

CHARACTER 1:

Sample Chapter/Scene: Chapter _____ , Pages _____

Why this scene: _____

Emotions shown: _____

Key dialogue/interaction: _____

CHARACTER 2:

Sample Chapter/Scene: Chapter _____ , Pages _____

Why this scene: _____

Emotions shown: _____

Key dialogue/interaction: _____

CHARACTER 3:

Sample Chapter/Scene: Chapter _____, Pages _____

Why this scene: _____

Emotions shown: _____

Key dialogue/interaction: _____

Retail Sample Evaluation

My Book Begins With:

- Action/conflict
- Character introduction
- Dialogue
- Internal monologue
- Description/Setting
- Prologue
- Other: _____

Does your opening hook listeners immediately? Yes No Unsure

If no or unsure, would you like to discuss alternatives? Yes No

Marketing Clips

List 5 scenes that would make great promotional clips:

1. Chapter _____, Page _____ - _____
2. Chapter _____, Page _____ - _____
3. Chapter _____, Page _____ - _____
4. Chapter _____, Page _____ - _____
5. Chapter _____, Page _____ - _____

Quick Reference Checklist

Before Submitting Your Manuscript:

- Identified voice sample scenes for each main character
- Evaluated your opening (first 5 minutes)
- Listed potential marketing clip scenes
- Noted any concerns about sample selections
- Ready to discuss alternatives if needed

Remember:

- I'm here to help you choose the best samples
- We can discuss options during our consultation
- Your input ensures the samples serve your goals
- Great samples = better audiobook experience + more sales!

Need Help or Have Questions?

I'm happy to help you choose the perfect chapters!

During our consultation, we'll discuss:

- Your book's opening and retail sample strategy
- Best scenes for chapter voice development
- Marketing clip opportunities
- Any concerns or special considerations

Let's make sure your audiobook samples work as hard as possible to showcase your story and drive sales!

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