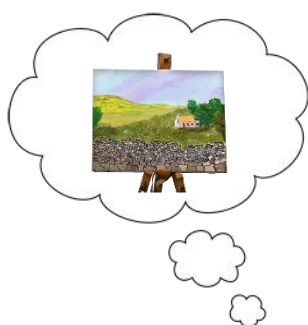




What does copyright protect?



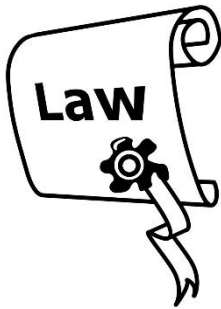
Published: March 2025

What you will find in here

Page number:



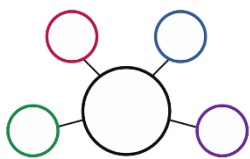
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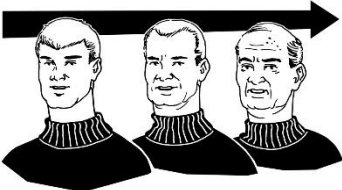
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About this Easy Read



This Easy Read is by:

- by Karen Workman from **Copyright Licensing New Zealand**
- made for Taha Hotu.



Let's do the right thing

Copyright Licensing New Zealand supports people to follow the rules about copyright.



Taha Hotu is:

- led by disabled people
- part of Arts Access Aotearoa.



When we say **we** in this Easy Read we mean Taha Hotu.



We work to support Deaf and disabled artists.



This Easy Read is an Easy Read translation of 1 of 4 documents about **copyright**.



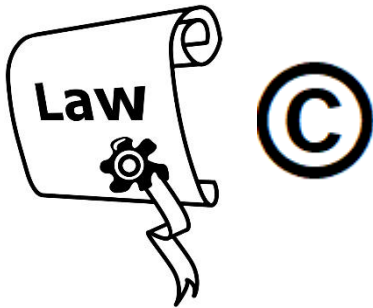
Copyright is about who can use / sell things you create like:

- words you write
- pictures you paint
- photographs you take
- songs you write / compose.

You can find the other Easy Reads about copyright on the Taha Hotu website at:

<https://tinyurl.com/allcr2>

Copyright on your art

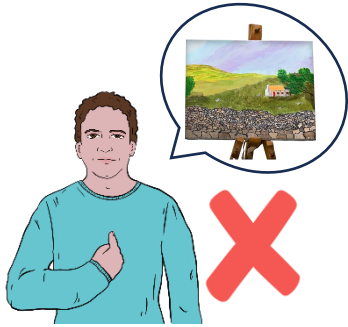


Art is when:

- you have taken an idea in your head
- and
- turned it into something to share with the rest of the world.

The art you make is **protected** by copyright law.

Here **protected** means rules for how something is used.



This is so no one else can:

- copy it
- say it is theirs
- make money from it.



Copyright law in Aotearoa New Zealand is for artwork that is:

- **original**
- finished / will not change
- something someone else can experience by:
 - looking at it
 - reading it
 - listening to it.





Here **original** means you did not copy artwork by someone else to make your own art.



Copyright law protects types of work that are:

- physical which means real life
- digital which means on the internet.



The Copyright Act calls everyone who creates artwork an author.

What kinds of art are protected by copyright?



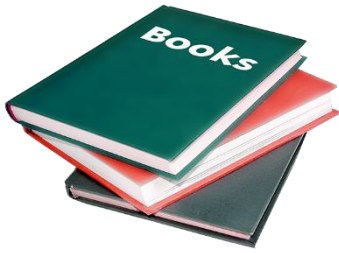
There are lots of different kinds of art works protected by copyright.

They are explained in this section.



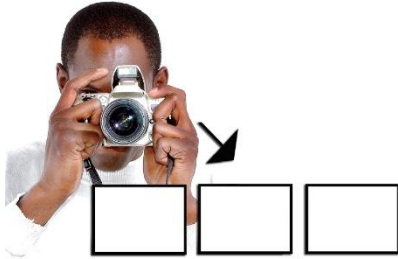
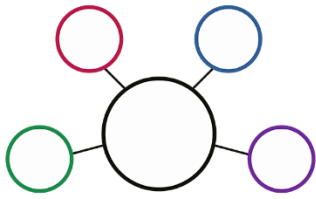
Literary works

Literary means something that is written.



Literary works protected by copyright include:

- novels / books
- screenplays / the story of a film
- poems
- song lyrics / words
- letters
- emails
- journal articles
- tables / collections of information
- sets of data
- computer programs / software
- **multimedia works.**



A **multimedia work** is a piece of art that is made with different kinds of art.

For example a multimedia work could have:

- a display of photographs with information written about them
- a video with captions that shows how the photographs were taken
- a transcript of the audio of the photographer talking about the meaning of the photographs.

Dramatic works

Dramatic works protected by copyright include:

- dance
- theatre / plays
- mime / acting without words
- **film scripts.**



A **film script** has all the information people making a film need to know like:

- action like how people move
- dialogue which is what people say
- imagery which is what the film looks like.

Musical works



Musical works protected by copyright include music that is written down like:

- scores which are the printed music notes
- lead sheets which show the:
 - melody which is the song tune
 - harmony which is other sounds in the song
 - lyrics which are the song words
- chord charts which are lists of how the music notes are played.



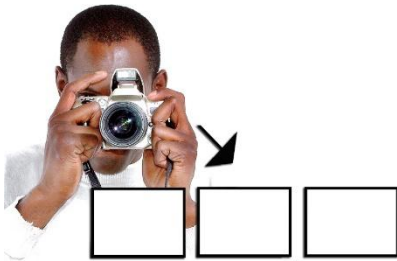


Artistic works

Artistic works protected by copyright are visual arts which means art you look at that does not move.



This includes:



- paintings
- drawings
- photographs
- sculptures / statues



- architectural / building plans
- diagrams
- maps.





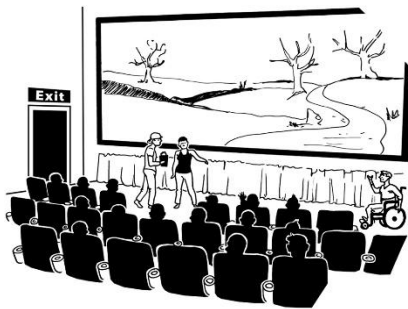
Sound recordings

The recordings of sounds are protected by copyright.



This does not include the:

- written music in the recording
- stories in the recording.



Films

The moving images in videos are protected by copyright.



This includes:

- films
- discs like DVDs.



This does not include the:

- script
- music
- sounds.

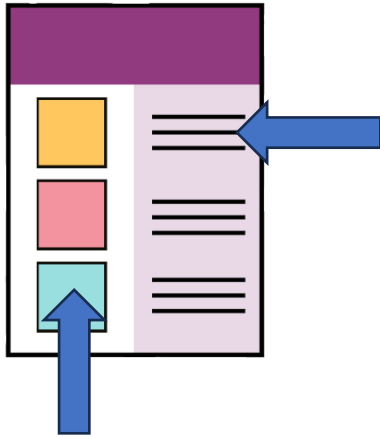
Communication works

Communication works that are protected by copyright include things played on:

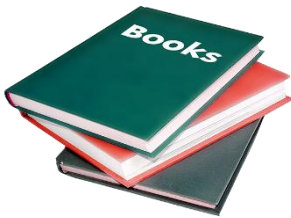


- radio
- television
- the internet like:
 - podcasts / audio
 - livestreams / live video.

Typographical



Here **typographical** means how things are set out in something that is written.

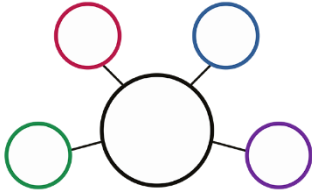


This includes how things are set out in a:

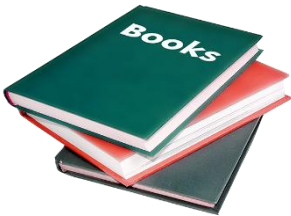
- book
- script
- written piece of music.



Examples of copyright

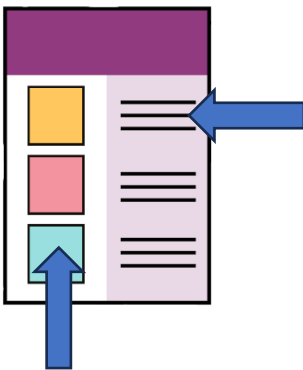


Some artworks can have lots of different parts that need copyright protection.



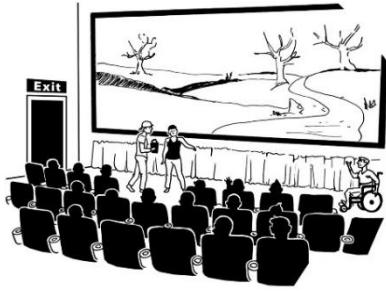
A book will have different copyright protections for the:

- words
- pictures
- typographical setting / how it is set out.



If a book has stories by different authors each story has copyright protection.





A film will have different copyright protections for the:

- script
- written music
- moving images
- sound recordings including:
 - voices
 - sound effects
 - the music that is played.



Each song on a music album has copyright protection for the:

- sound recording
- lyrics / words.



What is not protected by copyright?



Copyright protects the way you turn your idea into art.

Copyright does not protect the idea.



2 people can:

- have the same idea

and

- make different art about it.



Both pieces of art will be protected by copyright so long as the 2 people do not copy from each other.



For example 2 authors can write a story about a lost dog.



Each author writes different:

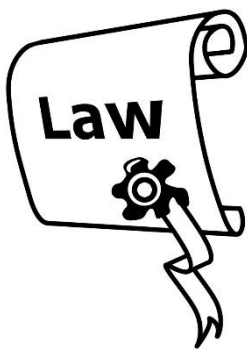
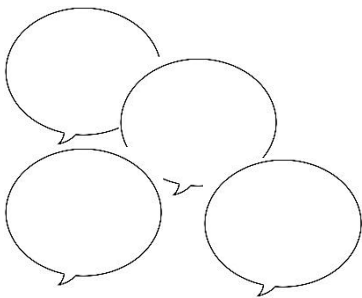
- people
- places
- things that happen to the dog
- endings to the story.



Each story is protected by copyright because each author uses different:

- words
- ideas.





Some things that are not protected by copyright are:

- some names
- single words
- headlines of news stories.

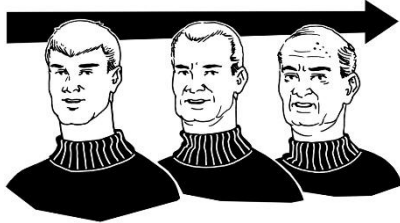
This is because they are too:

- short
- ordinary / used all the time.

Public documents that are not protected by copyright are legal things like:

- laws
- rulings made by the court
- official inquiry reports.

How long does copyright last?

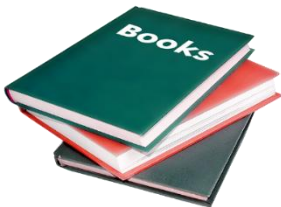


50

years

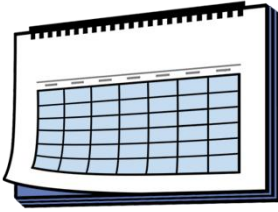
Copyright protection on art you make lasts for:

- your whole life
- and
- 50 years after you pass away.



This is for work that is:

- literary
- dramatic
- musical
- artistic.



How long copyright lasts will change in the future.



Copyright protection means any **benefit** from the artwork goes to:

- you

then



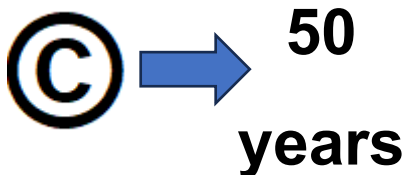
- your family or **estate** after you pass away.



Here **benefit** means:

- money you make from the art
- control of how the art is used.





An **estate** is a legal way of making sure your art is protected by copyright after you pass away.

You choose someone to look after your estate like a:

- family member
- friend.

The person looking after your estate can:

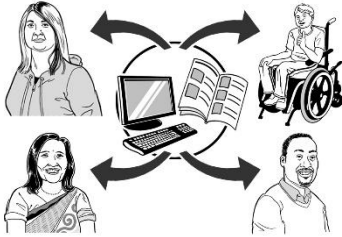
- make money from the art
- control how the art is used.

After the 50 years has passed your artwork will be **out of copyright**.



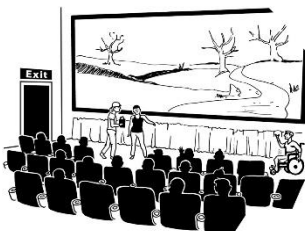
Out of copyright means your art can be:

- copied
- shared
- changed.



How long copyright protection lasts may be different for:

- government publications
- broadcasts like on:
 - television
 - the internet
- films.





This is because the length of copyright protection may be different in other countries.

More information



You can find more information on the Taha Hotu website at:

<https://tahahotu.org.nz>



You can also get in touch with us by:

- phone on:

04 802 4349

- email at:

tahahotu@artsaccess.org.nz



You can find more information about Copyright Licensing New Zealand at:

www.copyright.co.nz



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Let's do the right thing

Make it Easy
Kia Māmā Mai



People First NZ
Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi



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