KDP Puzzle Book Launch Checklist

From HTML export to published book — every step
Bonus companion for Holiday Puzzle Starter from Pickzox.com

1. Before You Export

- Run the two-stage Quality Meter and clear every Stage A critical conflict.
- Read the Stage B score honestly. Anything under 70 needs more work first.
- Preview the full HTML manuscript page by page in your browser.
- Check every puzzle has its matching numbered solution page.
- Confirm front matter, instructions page, and back matter are all present.

2. HTML to PDF: Exact Print Settings (Chrome / Edge)

- Open the exported HTML file in Chrome or Edge.
- Press Ctrl+P (Cmd+P on Mac) to open the print dialog.
- Destination: Save as PDF.
- Paper size: match your KDP trim size (8.5 x 11 in is the safe default).
- Margins: None (the tool's print CSS handles spacing).
- Scale: 100 percent — never Fit to page.
- Headers and footers: OFF (removes URL and date lines).
- Background graphics: ON (keeps shaded solution cells).
- Save, then open the PDF and flip through every page.

3. The Manual Checks (the 11 Points the Software Reserves)

- Verify page size and margins match your chosen KDP trim exactly.
- Check no puzzle grid is cut off or split across pages.
- Confirm large-print pages stay inside safe margins.
- Read 3-5 answer keys against their puzzles by hand.
- Check page numbers run in order with no duplicates or gaps.
- Confirm the instructions page reads clearly for a first-time solver.

4. Finish Your Cover

- The tool gives you a front-cover SVG only — not a finished KDP cover.
- Convert the SVG to your cover design tool (Canva, Photoshop, or similar).
- Use KDP's cover template calculator for your page count: spine width matters.
- Keep all text inside the safe zone; leave the barcode area empty.
- Export the final cover as a single print-ready PDF.

5. KDP Upload Walkthrough

- Create a new Paperback title in KDP.
- Upload your interior PDF and your finished cover PDF.

- Launch KDP's online Previewer and check every page again.
- Order a physical proof copy before you approve — always.
- Set your price, pick two categories, and fill all seven keyword slots.

6. Listing Tips (Do Real Keyword Research)

- The tool's 7 keyword ideas are starting guesses, not research.
- Check real search volume with a keyword tool before you commit.
- Put your strongest phrase in the title or subtitle field.
- Write the description for humans first, keywords second.

7. After You Hit Publish

- Order your own proof copy and solve 5 puzzles yourself.
- Fix anything you find and upload a revised interior — it is free.
- Ask early buyers for honest reviews; never buy your own book for rank.
- Track which themes sell and double down next season.

Work through this list once per book. Most KDP rejections come from skipping steps 2 and 3.

Created by Pickzox as a bonus companion.