

How can you estimate how many words are in a book?

1. Find the approximate average number of words per line.
2. Find the approximate average number of lines per page.
3. Multiply these two numbers to find the average number of words on a page.
4. Multiply the product by the number of pages in the book.

"I'm required by law to keep them, in the unlikely event a relative shows up for his things. We've placed an ad in the paper and made all the necessary inquiries, but this sort of thing happens all too often, I'm afraid. A person dies and there is no one in the world to claim them."

"Sad." I opened another volume.

"I haven't read all of them—time—but I am extremely curious. There may be clues to his past—well, from, that sort of thing. Might be. Though, from the little I've read, diary but a work of fiction."

I agreed it would almost have to be pages I'd read.

"Almost?" he asked. He seemed to suppose nearly anything is possible, much more possible than others!"

I took the notebooks home and placed them on my writing desk, where they stayed for a while.

I was pressed on a deadline for another book and compelled to dive into what I assumed were the ramblings of a demented nonagenarian. I was in the winter from the director goaded me with the frayed twine and a rereading of

few pages, but little progress besides that. The handwriting was so small, the pages so numerous, written on front and

THE MONSTRUMOLOGIST *æiii*

There are approximately 11 words per line on this page.

There are 26 lines per page.

This equals 271 words per page.

Multiply this number by the total number of pages in the book, 454.

The approximate number of words in this book is 123,000.