Book Page Paper Layout: Margin and Fold Guides Explained

Worked example / complete source key

A sheet is 20 cm wide and will be folded in half to make a two-page spread. Each page needs a 1.5 cm inner margin and a 1.5 cm outer margin. Where do the margin guides and gutter zone fall?

Answer: The fold line is at 10 cm. The gutter zone is 3 cm wide, centered on the fold, so it runs from 8.5 cm to 11.5 cm. The left writing area runs from 1.5 cm to 8.5 cm. The right writing area runs from 11.5 cm to 18.5 cm. The outer margins are 1.5 cm on each side. These values are hypothetical; measure your own paper and adjust.