Ten Steps to Starting an Audiobook Group

1. **Enlist Members**

You might be surprised how many people are interested once you start asking around. Invite friends, family members or colleagues, or spread the word with posters in your local library, community centre or other community spaces.

Think about how many people you'd like in your group. Around 5–10 members is a good starting point, giving everyone plenty of opportunity to join in the conversation.

2. **Give Your Group a Name**

Time to get creative! Choosing a name is a fun way to break the ice and help everyone feel part of the group. Ask members to share their ideas and put your favourites to a vote.

3. **Time**

Agree on a regular day and time that works for everyone and decide how often you'd like to meet. Meeting once a month is the usual frequency for audiobook groups and gives enough time for everyone to listen to the audiobook.

4. **Venue**

The venue is very important as it has to be somewhere that is accessible for everybody. You could take it in turns to host meetings at home, hire a room or meet in your local library or community centre.

The most important thing is that everyone can get there easily and feel comfortable taking part.

5. **Choose A Group Leader**

Having someone to keep things organised can make all the difference. A group coordinator can arrange meeting dates, help members choose the next audiobook and get discussions started. There's no need for one person to take on the role permanently – you could share the responsibility and take it in turns.

6. **Agree a Few Ground Rules**

A few simple ground rules can help make your meetings enjoyable and inclusive for everyone. Encourage members to share their opinions, listen to different perspectives and make sure nobody dominates the conversation. Everyone should feel comfortable having their say, whether they're naturally chatty or prefer to listen first.

Be aware of any accessibility needs. You might also want to decide if refreshments will be provided, who pays for them and be aware of any dietary requirements.

Lastly, it's important to ask everyone to at least attempt to listen to the audiobook before the meeting. If someone doesn't finish it don't let that put them off coming along – group members who didn't enjoy a book or struggled to get into it can offer just as interesting a perspective as those who loved every minute! The important thing is to give it a try and join the conversation.

7. **Join our Audiobook Group Support Scheme**

Here's how Calibre Audio can help audiobook groups who qualify for our service!

Our Audiobook Group Support Scheme makes it easy for everyone in your group to listen to the same audiobook, at the same time.

For just £18 per person, per year (including VAT), eligible book groups can receive multiple digital copies of their chosen audiobooks, up to 12 times a year – enough to cover all your monthly meetings.

New groups can also benefit from a three-month free trial, giving you time to get established and make sure the service is right for your group.

Interested in joining? Complete the application form on our website and our team will be in touch to finalise the details. Alternatively, call our Membership Services team on 01296 432339 to find out more.

8. **Create a Reading List Everyone Will Enjoy**

This is something that all the group should get involved in to put together a varied and interesting list. You could explore a particular genre, such as crime or romance, discover award-winning titles, mix fiction with non-fiction or give poetry a go. There are plenty of places to find inspiration from radio and book reviews to newspaper articles and recommendations from friends.

Calibre Audio has a dedicated audiobook group collection list, including best sellers, classic novels, modern fiction and popular non-fiction covering a wide range of reading tastes. The collection is regularly updated, and we're always happy to hear suggestions for titles you would like to see included. Audiobook groups who join our scheme can access this list to help choose their next listen.

9. **Discussion Questions**

A great audiobook can spark all sorts of conversations but sometimes it helps to have a few questions up your sleeve! Calibre Audio has a list of questions you can use on the website, www.calibreaudio.org.uk/services/groups.

10. Themes and Ideas

Keep your audiobook group members engaged and interested by introducing different themes and ideas to some of the meetings. You could:

- **Test everyone's knowledge:** Put together a fun quiz about the audiobook or its author.
- **Explore a theme:** Choose an audiobook to tie in with a national celebration, awareness day or historical anniversary.
- **Discover something new:** Try a different genre, an unfamiliar author or an audiobook you wouldn't normally consider.
- **Get creative:** Ask members to come up with an alternative ending.
- **Share recommendations:** Give everyone the chance to suggest a favourite audiobook for the group to explore.

Most importantly, enjoy yourselves! An audiobook group is about sharing experiences, discovering new perspectives and connecting with people who enjoy a good story as much as you do.