

PREVIEW
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Point of View

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First Person Point of View

- When a story is told from the perspective of the narrator
- Clue words: I, me, my, our, we

When it's used:

- A personal narrative
- An opinion article
- Short story or novel
- Autobiography
- Memoir

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First Person Example

I missed the bus today. I just couldn't get out of bed! My cat was snuggling me, and that made it harder to wake up. I am not a morning person.

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Second Person Point of View

- When the narrator addresses the audience or readers directly
- Clue words: you, yourself, you guys

When it's used:

- A speech or public address
- How-To Books
- Cookbooks
- Self Help Books
- Choose Your Own Adventure stories

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Second Person Example

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You missed the bus today. You just couldn't get out of bed! Your cat was snuggling you, and that made it harder for you to wake up. You are not a morning person.

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Third Person 3 Kinds

PREVIEW

- The narrator is telling a story that they are not a part of, an outside perspective
- Clue words: he, she, they, them

When it's used:

- Formal academic writing: argumentative, summaries, compare/contrast essay, research papers
- Short stories or novels
- Biography
- News, Articles, Magazines

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Third Person Objective

PREVIEW

- The narrator tells the story without revealing or describing any of the characters' thoughts or feelings
- The narrator gives an unbiased perspective
- Don't get confused with quotes! If you are quoting someone, and repeating their words, you can still be objective

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Third Person Objective

PREVIEW

Kelsey missed the bus today because she woke up at 7:45. Her cat was snuggling

her, and so she stayed in bed to pet him for awhile. She said to her cat, "I am not a morning person."

*Even though there's an "I" in there, the narrator is not referring to himself or herself.

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Third Person Limited

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- The narrator only knows the thoughts and feelings of one character, usually the main character
- They are *limited* to one perspective

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Third Person Limited

PREVIEW

Kelsey woke up today with disbelief that she missed the bus again. She just couldn't get out of bed from feeling so exhausted. Her cat was snuggling her too, and that made it harder for her to wake up. She desperately begged her mom to give her a ride to school, ashamed for even asking.

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Third Person Omniscient

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- The narrator knows and reveals the thoughts and feelings of more than one (usually all) of the characters
- The narrator has a wide perspective of the story

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Third Person Omniscient

PREVIEW

Kelsey woke up today with disbelief that she missed the bus again. She just couldn't get out of bed because she was feeling so exhausted. When Kelsey asked her mom for a ride to school, her mom was filled with disappointment. Her mom thought, *how can one person have so much trouble getting out of bed?* Kelsey arrived to school halfway through first period. Her fellow classmates judged her as she handed her late pass to the teacher for the third time that week.

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Unreliable Narrator

PREVIEW

- The readers can't trust the narrator for some reason
- Authors might do this intentionally to make a story more interesting
- Possible reasons the narrator's perspective is compromised:
 - They are a child
 - They are mentally unstable (example: schizophrenic)
 - They are extremely biased
 - They have an intellectual disability
 - They are a pathological liar
 - They have a skewed perception of reality

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Point of View Practice

Directions: Determine the point of view by writing the correct letter on the line.

- a. First person
- b. second person
- c. third person objective
- d. third person limited
- e. third person omniscient

- _____ 1. My mom made lasagna for dinner.
- _____ 2. "Do not be late," the teacher said to her students in the hall.
- _____ 3. Meredith was depressed after the loss of her husband. Her soul was crushed.
- _____ 4. Molly asked Bethany to bring snacks to the party.
- _____ 5. Stirring the pasta while it is boiling is an important step you won't want to skip.
- _____ 6. Derek felt like he did most of the work during the Alzheimer's study. His girlfriend, on the other hand, was appalled by his arrogance.
- _____ 7. When everyone forgot Michael's birthday at work, he thought no one cared about him. As it turns out, they were all waiting at his house for a surprise party later that evening.
- _____ 8. "I have never been so humiliated in my life!" yelled Anna.
- _____ 9. It was snowing heavily outside. The meteorologist said New York should expect at least 9 inches by midnight. Most people are prepared for this type of weather. I really hope school will be cancelled on Monday.
- _____ 10. Running is a great way to exercise. It's hard to get started, but you feel amazing when it's over.
- _____ 11. When holiday music starts to play on the radio, I get super excited.
- _____ 12. Kaden wanted to see a scary movie, but his sister Ellie wanted to see a comedy. The two were arguing, and both felt like they never get their way. Their mom decided she was sick of their fighting, so there wasn't going to be a movie at all.
- _____ 13. On May 15th every year, the whole neighborhood has a huge yard sale. Charlotte couldn't wait to finally try and sell her old bike.
- _____ 14. Jordan scored 14 points at the basketball game last night. Jamie scored 8 points, and Justin scored 2 points.
- _____ 15. You really shouldn't speed in the rain; many people who do end up getting in a car accident.
- _____ 16. After Jack found his lucky keychain in his brother's room, he stormed downstairs with a vengeance. "It was you who stole it! You know it means everything to me! How could you!?" His brother sat there, proud of his decision. Jack had never been so angry before, but his brother just didn't care.

Point of View Practice

Answer Key

A. First person B. second person C. third person objective
D. third person limited E. third person omniscient

A 1. My mom made lasagna for dinner.

C 2. "Do not be late," the teacher said to her students in the hall.

D 3. Meredith was depressed after the loss of her husband. Her soul was crushed.

C 4. Molly asked Bethany to bring snacks to the party.

B 5. Stirring the pasta while it is boiling is an important step you won't want to skip.

E 6. Derek felt like he did most of the work during the Alzheimer's study. His girlfriend, on the other hand, was appalled by his arrogance.

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