

CHOOSE YOUR POINT OF VIEW

First-Person POV

First-person perspective is told like a journal entry, a personal story, or thoughts running in someone's head. The reader is seeing the world through the character's eyes. We see what they see and hear what they hear. There is no distance between the reader and the character's thoughts. If the character is wrong, we won't necessarily know, because their perspective is all we have to go on. An unreliable narrator can be dishonest or inaccurate even without wanting to.

Second-Person POV

Second-Person POV is like telling the story like talking to yourself. "You went to the fridge and slid the frosted drawer free, but to your amazement, it was full of beans. You had no idea what to do next. You expected avocados." This POV is usually reserved for instruction manuals and other non-fiction essays (like this one) or in Choose Your Own Adventure stories where the reader defines what will happen in the story.



Third-Person POV

This means telling your story as "She did" and "He said," never "I." There are three kinds:

- Third-Person Narrator POV.** In this perspective, you—the storyteller—are everywhere and know everything. You can be in anyone's life, around any corner. A leaf fell in the park, and none of your characters saw it? You did, and you can write it down. There are no limitations to this viewpoint, though it can be difficult to make it feel personal.

- Third-Person Multiple POV.** In this perspective, the author uses the viewpoints of a particular set of individuals. This one's a lot easier to work with for one main reason: your reader only knows what these characters know, allowing your plot to unfold naturally.

There's no outside knowledge, no "Unbeknownst to everyone, the water main broke beneath the garage and began to flood the driveway". If your characters didn't see it, then the reader won't know about it until somebody steps in mud and talks about it as it happens.

•**Third-Person Limited POV.** This is where you follow one person, but this still one step removed from the personal nature of First-person. This is still told as "She," not "I". Third-person can be a little difficult because you can easily slip into narrator mode and describe something happening outside your character. To do this right, you have to limit the story to what that character knows, sees, hears, and thinks.