

Point of View: Voices

First Person (*I, me, my, mine, us, we our, ours*)

Example: *The bear shuffled out beyond the woods' edge. It was burly and, to my mind, menacing. I had never wanted so badly to be someplace else.*

Second Person (*you, your, yours*)

Example: *If you have ever wanted to be a writer, you are not alone. But there is something you need to do right away: Stop thinking about "wanting" to be a writer. Instead, be one! Writers write. They don't think about it without doing it.*

Third Person (*he, him, his, she, her, hers, it, its, they, them, their, Bob, the girl, the mayor*)

Example: *It was not the kind of present Greta had been expecting. Ordinarily, her aunt sent her something "girly," like a frilly dress that she would never wear, or an assortment of makeup that would give her the appearance of a despondent raccoon. But this time, the box from Idaho held something wholly out of character with past gifts. Greta was now the slightly-confused owner of a long-bladed hunting knife.*

Notes:

- The first-person voice takes priority over the second- and third-person voices.
- The second-person voice takes priority over the third-person voice.

Further examples:

- First-person voice: (1) *You are not the boss. You do not run the show. You need to get off your high horse and leave **me** alone.*
(2) *The neighbors are at it again. They must not think **we** notice when there are fewer peaches on the tree morning after morning. It is not a good feeling to look on the people next door as little more than a pack of thieves who take advantage of you.*
- Second-person voice: *The worst of the storm was over, which meant those lucky few who had made it to the safety of the cellar were starting to think beyond their own circumstances. What had become of those who were not with them? What would the survivors find above their heads once they climbed back into the world? Unless **you** have been in a similar situation, it is undoubtedly difficult to imagine what these frantic moments were like.*