

First vs. Third Person Narration

Both fiction and nonfiction can be written from various points of view.
The author's **point of view** is the voice of the person telling the story.

First Person Narration

When the story is being told from the point of view or perspective of a character who is in the story.

Pronouns such as **I, me, we, us, my, our, myself, ourselves** show first person narration.

Example: *I knew I was in trouble when I saw my mom's face.*

Third Person Narration

When the story is being told from someone else's point of view or perspective.

Pronouns such as **he, she, her, him, it, they, them, their, themselves** show third person narration.

Example: *Shannon knew she was in trouble when she saw her mom's face.*

Part 1: Read each sentence and circle if it is first or third person narration.

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| 1. I swam as fast as I could. | FIRST PERSON | THIRD PERSON |
| 2. Danyal and Martin couldn't believe their eyes. | FIRST PERSON | THIRD PERSON |
| 3. Natalia Lafourcade is a Mexican pop singer. | FIRST PERSON | THIRD PERSON |
| 4. By 1860, she had helped over 70 slaves and their families escape slavery. | FIRST PERSON | THIRD PERSON |
| 5. The blue whale is the largest mammal. | FIRST PERSON | THIRD PERSON |
| 6. We were so happy to spot a whale from the boat. | FIRST PERSON | THIRD PERSON |
| 7. I was in the mood to take a walk. | FIRST PERSON | THIRD PERSON |
| 8. The giraffe said to the frog, "Don't be sad!" | FIRST PERSON | THIRD PERSON |

Part 2: Read each sentence and determine if it sounds like fiction writing, nonfiction writing, or both.

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|--|---------|------------|------|
| 1. I swam as fast as I could. | FICTION | NONFICTION | BOTH |
| 2. Danyal and Martin couldn't believe their eyes. | FICTION | NONFICTION | BOTH |
| 3. Natalia Lafourcade is a Mexican pop singer. | FICTION | NONFICTION | BOTH |
| 4. By 1860, she had helped over 70 slaves and their families escape slavery. | FICTION | NONFICTION | BOTH |
| 5. The blue whale is the largest mammal. | FICTION | NONFICTION | BOTH |
| 6. We were so happy to spot a whale from the boat. | FICTION | NONFICTION | BOTH |
| 7. I was in the mood to take a walk. | FICTION | NONFICTION | BOTH |
| 8. The giraffe said to the frog, "Don't be sad!" | FICTION | NONFICTION | BOTH |

Part 3: Write the same sentence twice: once with first person narration and once with third person narration.

Tip: Look at the example at the top of the page!

First Person Narration

Third Person Narration

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