

First-Person vs. Third-Person Point of View

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____ / 10



Quick Review

FIRST-PERSON uses I, me, and my — the narrator is INSIDE the story. THIRD-PERSON uses he, she, and they — the narrator stands OUTSIDE the story.

PART 1 — READ

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

The Bus Stop — Two Ways

[Version A — First Person, told by Reni]

I almost missed the bus on Monday. My alarm did not ring, and I had to run all the way to the corner with one shoe untied. I could hear the bus engine growling at the stop sign. My backpack thumped against my back. I waved both arms. The driver saw me and held the door open. I was the last one on, and my face was hot for the whole ride.

[Version B — Third Person, told by an outside narrator]

Reni almost missed the bus on Monday. Her alarm did not ring, and she had to run all the way to the corner with one shoe untied. The bus engine growled at the stop sign while her backpack thumped against her back. She waved both arms, and the driver saw her and held the door open. She was the last one on. From the window, her neighbor Carter noticed her red face and decided to save her a seat the next morning.

PART 2 — PRACTICE

Use the two versions of the same scene to answer each question.

- Which point of view does VERSION A use?
 - First person — narrated by Reni using I, me, and my.
 - Second person — narrated TO the reader as "you."
 - Third-person limited — an outside narrator who can only see Reni's thoughts.
 - Third-person all-knowing — an outside narrator who sees inside every character's head.
- Which is the BEST clue that Version A is in FIRST PERSON?
 - The name "Reni" printed in the label at the top of the version.
 - The action of running to the bus with one shoe untied.
 - The strong verb "thumped" describing the backpack.
 - The pronouns I, my, and me used throughout the paragraph.



3. Which point of view does VERSION B use?
 - A. First person — told by Reni in her own voice.
 - B. Third person — told by an outside narrator who uses she and her.
 - C. First person — told by Carter from the back of the bus.
 - D. A mix of first and third person, switching back and forth.
4. Which line could ONLY appear in VERSION B?
 - A. "I waved both arms at the bus driver."
 - B. "My backpack thumped against my back."
 - C. "From the window, Carter noticed her red face and decided to save her a seat the next morning."
 - D. "I was the last one on the bus."
5. What does VERSION A let the reader feel that VERSION B does NOT directly?
 - A. Reni's embarrassment from the inside — "my face was hot."
 - B. Carter's quiet thoughts from his seat near the window.
 - C. What the bus driver is planning to do at the next stop.
 - D. How loud the bus engine sounds at the corner.
6. What does VERSION B let the reader SEE that VERSION A does NOT?
 - A. Reni's one untied shoe as she runs to the corner.
 - B. The bus driver holding the door open for Reni.
 - C. Reni's backpack thumping against her back.
 - D. Carter watching from the window and deciding to save Reni a seat.
7. Which sentence is written in FIRST person?
 - A. She ran to the bus stop with one shoe untied.
 - B. I waved both arms at the bus driver.
 - C. Reni's face was hot for the whole ride home.
 - D. Her backpack thumped against her back as she ran.
8. Which sentence is written in THIRD person?
 - A. I almost missed the bus on Monday morning.
 - B. My alarm did not ring at the right time today.
 - C. She was the last one on the bus that day.
 - D. I was the last one on the bus that day.
9. Rewrite this sentence from FIRST person into THIRD person: "I dropped my pencil under the desk and could not reach it." (Use the name Reni.)



10. Which is the BEST description of how the two versions DIFFER?
- A. Version A puts the reader inside Reni's head; Version B lets the reader see Carter and other people too.
 - B. Version A is set on Monday; Version B is set on Tuesday.
 - C. Version A is a true story; Version B is made up.
 - D. Version A has more characters than Version B does.



Answer Keys

- 1 A B C D
- 2 A B C D
- 3 A B C D
- 4 A B C D
- 5 A B C D

- 6 A B C D
- 7 A B C D
- 8 A B C D
- 9
- 10 A B C D

Explanations

1. A	Version A uses I, me, and my throughout — that is first person. B is a different POV (you-language); C and D are both THIRD person, not first.
2. D	Point of view is shown by the pronouns the narrator uses. A is just a section label; B is plot, which can be told from any POV; C is word choice, also POV-neutral.
3. B	Version B uses she, her, and Reni's name — and the narrator stands outside the action. A and C are both first person; D is wrong — the POV is consistent throughout.
4. C	Only an outside (third-person) narrator can know what Carter notices and decides — Reni cannot see inside his head. A, B, and D are all first-person lines that can only appear in Version A.
5. A	First-person narrators share inside feelings directly using my/me. B is Carter's mind — only Version B can show that, and only from the outside; C is the driver's mind — neither version reveals it; D is described in both versions.
6. D	Only the outside narrator in Version B can describe Carter's view and decision. A, B, and C all appear in both versions.
7. B	"I waved" uses the first-person pronoun I. A, C, and D all use third-person pronouns (she, her) or the name Reni — all third person.
8. C	Third-person uses she/he/they — "She was the last one on" is third person. A, B, and D all use I/my (first person).
9.	Answer: Strong answer: "Reni dropped her pencil under the desk and could not reach it." Also acceptable: "She dropped her pencil under the desk and could not reach it." The student must change BOTH "I" → Reni/she AND "my" → her, and keep the meaning the same. NOT acceptable: a sentence that keeps I or my anywhere; a sentence that mixes "Reni dropped my pencil" (mismatched pronouns); a sentence that changes the meaning (e.g., "Reni dropped her book"); or a sentence that uses YOU. Replace I → Reni/she and my → her.
10. A	The events are the same; the KEY difference is what each POV lets the reader see and feel. B is false (both are Monday); C invents a real/imagined split the text never sets up; D is the opposite — Version B introduces Carter, so it has MORE characters.



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