



Author Academy Writing Course

The A-Z of Getting Your Book Written & Publish
Ready!



First, Second & Third Person



Definition of First, Second & Third Person

First person definition: first person indicates the speaker

Second person definition: second person indicates the addressee

Third person definition: third person indicates a third party individual other than the speaker



What is the difference Between First Person, Second Person, and Third Person?

First, second, and third person refer to pronouns and their verb forms.



What is First Person?

First person uses the subject pronoun “I”

First person point of view: First person refers to the speaker. It uses the subject pronoun “I” (unless plural)

First Person Example:

- I prefer strawberries to apples
- In this example, “I” am the speaker. This is first person



Exercise One:

First Person



What is Second Person?

Second person point of view: Second person refers to the addressee. It uses the subject pronoun “you.”

Second Person Example:

- You prefer strawberries to apples.
- In this example “you” is the addressee. The speaker is addressing “you.” This is second person.



Exercise Two:

Second Person



What is Third Person?

Third person refers to a third party individual



Third person point of view: Third person refers to a third party individual. It uses the subject pronouns “he,” “she,” “it,” “they.”

Third Person Example:

- He prefers strawberries to apples
- In this example “he” is the third party. The speaker is referring to him as the addressee. *He* prefers strawberries to apples
- When using the different points of view, verbs need to be conjugated appropriately to fit the pronoun use



Exercise Three:

Third Person



What are First Person Pronouns?

First person pronouns always refer to the speaker himself. These pronouns are only used when the speaker is making a statement about himself or herself.

First Person Pronoun List:

Following is a list with examples of the first person words we use in writing and speech.



I/we (subject, singular/plural)

I prefer strawberries to apples. (First person singular)

We prefer rice to pasta. (First person plural)

me/us (object, singular/plural)

Adam embarrassed me.

Adam embarrassed us.

mine/ours (possessive, singular/plural)

The coat is mine.

The coat is ours.

my/our (possessive, modifying a noun, singular/plural)

That is my coat.

That is our coat.



What are Second Person Pronouns?



Second person pronouns always refer to the addressees of the speaker himself.

When you are writing, a good way to think about the second person's point of view is that it addresses the reader (as I just did in that sentence).

Second person pronouns are only used when the speaker is making a statement to the addressee, i.e., to someone.

Second Person Pronoun List:

Following is a list with examples of the second person words we use in writing and speech.



you (subject, singular/plural)

You prefer strawberries to apples.

you (object, singular/plural)

Adam embarrassed you.

yours (possessive, singular/plural)

The coat is yours.

your (possessive, modifying a noun, singular/plural)

That is your coat.

Note: In each of these examples, “you” can be an individual (singular) or multiple people (plural).



What are Third Person Pronouns?



Third person pronouns always refer to a third party. These pronouns are used when the speaker is making a statement about a third party.

Third Person Pronoun List:

Following is a list with examples of the third person words we use in writing and speech.





he, she, it / they (subject, singular/plural)

He prefers strawberries to apples. (Third person singular)

They prefer strawberries to apples. (Third person plural)

him, her, it / them (object, singular/plural)

Adam embarrassed her.

his, hers, its / theirs (possessive, singular/plural)

The coat is theirs.

his, her, its / their (possessive, modifying a noun, singular/plural)

That is their coat.



In Summary:

- If the text uses "I," "we," "me," "us," "my," "mine," or "ours" as pronouns, then you have a first-person point of view.
- If it uses "you," "your," or "yours" as pronouns, then you have a second-person point of view.
- If it uses "he," "she," "it," "they," "him," "hers," "them," "their," "his," "its," or "theirs" as pronouns, then you have a third-person point of view.





What's Next?

**Looking at your
Setting**