

Advanced 2
Unit 5 Writing
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Narrative Paragraphs

First-Person Point-of-View

A narrative paragraph is a kind of paragraph in which a story is told. The person who tells the story is called the narrator and the narrator might not be the writer himself or herself. In other words, the narrator is usually an imaginary character who is fabricated by the writer's mind.

narrate = to tell a story

narration = story-telling

narrative = a narrated text

narrator = a person who tells a story

In narration, the most important thing is point of view. The most common points of view are first person and third person. The first-person point of view is usually more effective and believable, but people may mistake the writer for the narrator. In this unit, you study narrative paragraphs using first-person point of view, and in the next unit, you will study narrative paragraphs using third-person point of view.

Points of View

- First-Person Point of View
- Limited Third-Person Point of View
- Omniscient Third-Person Point of View

omniscient = knowing everything

In the first-person point of view, a character involved in the story usually the principal character tells us the story using mainly first person pronouns “I”, “me”, “my”, “mine”.

Example for First-Person Point of View:

Last month, I decided being single was no longer my thing and resolved to get hitched. But being an introvert with a social circle consisting mostly of my goldfish, I enlisted my mom as my personal matchmaker. She rallied the neighborhood gossip squad, and soon enough, we got a hot lead: a family with a prime candidate for marriage. Armed with flowers and a box of Iranian sweets, my mom and I embarked on our matrimonial mission. Upon arrival, there she was—sitting on the sofa, hair cascading like a shampoo commercial, and beauty that could launch a thousand ships. Whispering to my mom that she was “the one,” I was promptly silenced and schooled on our religious values. My mom made it clear that an unveiled girl was not in the running. Feeling like a deflated balloon, I wondered how I’d ever convince her otherwise. Suddenly, another girl, veiled and all in white like a bridal ninja, glided into the room with tea. Wait, what? Who was this mysterious tea bearer, and why wasn’t Dream Girl serving the tea? The mother then did the big reveal: the veiled girl was their daughter, and the so-called girl of my dreams? Well, turns out, he was their son—who just happened to look like he stepped out of a beauty pageant. Talk about a plot twist!

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