

POINT OF VIEW CHART

TYPE	First Person Central/Peripheral	Third Person Omniscient	Third Person Limited Omniscient	Third Person Objective or Impersonal	Stream of Consciousness
Voice	Narrator uses first person pronouns (I, my, mine, we, our, us, etc.)	Third person pronouns (he, she) mostly First person rarely	Third person pronouns	Third person	Third person pronouns
Consciousness	Access to narrator's consciousness	Access to consciousness of more than one character, perhaps all	Access to consciousness of one character	Little or no access to character's consciousness	Unbroken flow of perceptions, thoughts, and feelings in mind
Position and presence	Story is told through eyes of main character (protagonist), minor character, or outside observer	Story seen through eyes of outside observer whose presence is pervasive	Story seen through eyes of outside observer, protagonist, or minor character whose presence dominates	Story seen through eyes of outside observer	Narrator records in detail what passes through a character's awareness—Narrator does not intervene or interpret
Reliability	Narrator is reliable when observer is used, but may not be reliable when told by character. Narrator may be naïve or biased	Reliable as implied author's voice	Reliable when observer used; less reliable when character used or when narrator intrudes or comments	Reliable as narrator describes, "shows", or reports the action in dramatic scenes	Reliable character's thoughts are random, immature, or fantastic
Use in Modern Fiction	Frequently used	Used often	Frequently used	Infrequently used	Frequent in modern fiction
Other Features	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fosters illusions of reality 2. Allows author comments 3. Establishes intimate relationship between reader and narrator 4. Provides structural unity 5. Because of subjectivity, may be less reliable 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Allows great scope and flexibility 2. Permits author intrusions, editorializing, evaluations, and comments 3. More reliable than first person perspective 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fosters illusions of reality 2. Allows author comments (intrusive) 3. Provides intimacy between reader and narrator 4. Provides structural unity 5. Combines scope of omniscient and immediacy of first-person narration 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reliable as narrator merely reports without introducing his own comments or judgments 2. Leaves much interpretation to the reader 3. Restricted—little intimacy 4. Also called "the fly on the wall technique" 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Presents an unbroken flow of perceptions, thoughts, and feelings in the waking mind 2. Relies heavily on dialogue either interior or exterior 3. Little action