

Solutions for chapter 15

Point of View
(Writers' Guide Series)
Master this powerful writing tool to captivate your readers
by
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Keep in mind that there's no one right solution. The rewrite that you have come up with might work just as well, even if it's different from mine.

EXERCISE #23:

- Try to identify the point of view violation in the following example and then rewrite the snippet in a way that keeps us in Tina's POV.

The ringing of the phone made Tina jump. She lifted it to her ear. "Hi."
"Hi, Tina. Do you have a minute?" Betty fiddled with the phone cord.

Solution:

Tina, who is the POV character, can't see what Betty is doing at the other end of the line, so you can't mention Betty fiddling with the phone cord.

Possible rewrite:

The ringing of the phone made Tina jump. She lifted it to her ear. "Hi."
"Hi, Tina," Betty said. "Do you have a minute?"
Something rustled at the other end of the line. "Sure."

EXERCISE #24:

- Now do the same for this sentence:

Tina parked the car and crossed the street, oblivious to the black BMW following her.

Solution:

If Tina isn't aware of the BMW following her, you can't mention it. Depending on the kind of book this is, you could end the scene after "crossed the street" and start the next scene in the point of view of the antagonist, revealing that he's watching her from behind the wheel of a BMW.

EXERCISE #25:

- Can you figure out what's wrong with this sentence? Please rewrite it from Tina's point of view.

A smile lit up Tina's face.

Solution:

Here, we're watching Tina from the outside, instead of inhabiting her body and mind.

Possible rewrite:

A smile tugged on Tina's lips.

EXERCISE #26:

- Identify the POV violation in the following example and then rewrite the sentence from Tina's POV.

Betty eyed Tina, looking for any signs of a lie.

Solution:

Betty is not the POV character, so we can't know why she's eyeing Tina. Rewrite it in a way that makes it clear that this is Tina's interpretation of why Betty looks at her that way.

Rewrite:

Betty eyed Tina as if looking for any signs of a lie.