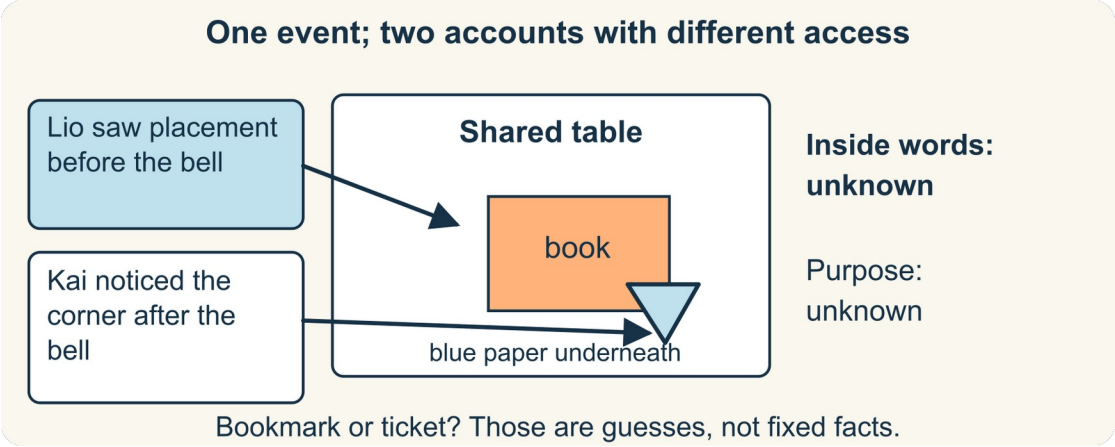
The same small event from two viewpoints

Which details change when an invented narrator changes?

Give two invented narrators different access to one small event. Separate what they can observe from what they merely suppose.

Make | 15–25 minutes, or one comparison | Paper and a pen or pencil, The supplied model; no purchase, account or internet connection needed

Start here Use this fixed event: Renn puts folded blue paper under a book on a table. A bell rings. Lio saw the placement from a window; Kai notices only the corner after the bell.



Same event, different access

1 Track who could know what

Lio saw the paper arrive but cannot read inside it. Kai did not see its arrival. Both can notice the blue corner; neither has been told Renn's purpose.

2 Read the two voices

Compare the supplied first-person versions. "Perhaps a bookmark" and "looked like a ticket" are guesses, not new facts the writer has established.

3 Write within one viewpoint

Add a sentence for Lio or Kai that preserves the fixed event and that narrator's access. You may describe visible detail or a labelled guess; do not silently give them hidden knowledge.

4 Check the reader's picture

Mark observation and inference differently. If you switch narrators, signal the change so a reader can follow whose knowledge is available.

Two tellings without changing the event

Renn, Lio and Kai are fictional; no real scene or private note is being described.

• Lio: “From the window I saw Renn slide folded blue paper under the book. Then the bell rang. I could not read the paper. Perhaps it was a bookmark.”

• Kai: “The bell rang before I noticed a blue corner under the book. From my seat I had not seen it arrive. It looked like a ticket, but I could not be sure.”

• Kai noticed later; this does not mean the paper arrived later. A change in telling need not be a change in the event itself.

What this example can show First person does not make an inference true, and third person does not automatically mean a narrator knows everything. Choose and maintain the access you establish.

A different way

Compare the two supplied accounts using “saw” and “guessed” labels, or draw the table and viewing positions. You need not write about yourself.

If you want to go further

Write a clearly signalled third-person limited version that stays with Kai’s knowledge. Check that changing pronouns has not added hidden facts.

Something to notice

Did I change the viewpoint, or accidentally change what happened?

Read or explore more

Horizon topic Viewpoint Voice

https://launchhorizonhq.com/learn/viewpoint-voice/

Horizon topic Description Detail

https://launchhorizonhq.com/learn/description-detail/

Horizon topic Character Motivation

https://launchhorizonhq.com/learn/character-motivation/

NSW Education Standards Authority voice - glossary

https://curriculum.nsw.edu.au/resources/glossary/voice

NSW Education Standards Authority narrative - glossary

https://curriculum.nsw.edu.au/resources/glossary/narrative