Writing in third and first person

Practise re-writing the narratives below in the opposite point of view.
Scroll down the page to check your answers.

Writing in first person

The narrative below is written in third person point of view.

Highlight the words that would need to be changed if the narrative was rewritten in first person point of view.

Bobbie hates exercise. He knows it is very important to his health, however he's been told this often enough. His favourite exercise is with his thumb in front of the telly. Pushing buttons on the remote should be exercise enough – and he does enough of it. Bobbie is developing very strong fingers. His wrist and arms should be getting a workout too from all the lifting he does. First there's a can of soft drink, then there's a packet of crisps and now and again he needs to muster all of his upper body strength for that chocolate cake! Watching sport must be good exercise. Bobbie feels the rush of blood when his team finally scores the winning goal and he leaps from the sofa. Surely that must be good for his heart!
In the space provided, rewrite the narrative so that it is told in first person point of view.

**Hint:** You may want to pretend to be Bobbie.
**Writing in third person**

The narrative below is written in first person point of view.

Highlight the words that would need to be changed if the narrative was rewritten in third person point of view.

I couldn’t drag myself from bed. It seemed that the pillow was calling my name. Lying in bed for those last precious moments, the events of the evening slowly came back to me. For a moment I felt casual and unrushed but then the reality of what was before me sank in. I sat bolt upright – any fantasy of crawling back under the covers was gone. I headed for the shower to think.

In the space provided, rewrite the narrative so that it is told in third person point of view.

**Hint:** Choose any name for your character.
Writing in third and first person – answers

Writing in first person

Highlighted are the words that would be changed if the narrative was rewritten in first person.

Bobbie hates exercise. He knows it is very important to his health, however he’s been told this often enough. His favourite exercise is with his thumb in front of the telly. Pushing buttons on the remote should be exercise enough – and he does enough of it. Bobbie is developing very strong fingers. His wrist and arms should be getting a workout too from all the lifting he does. First there’s a can of soft drink, then there’s a packet of crisps and now and again he needs to muster all of his upper body strength for that chocolate cake! Watching sport must be good exercise. Bobbie feels the rush of blood when his team finally scores the winning goal and he leaps from the sofa. Surely that must be good for his heart!

The re-written narrative in first person:

I hate exercise. I know it is very important to my health, however. I’ve been told this often enough. My favourite exercise is with my thumb in front of the telly. Pushing buttons on the remote should be exercise enough – and I do enough of it. I’m developing very strong fingers. My wrist and arms should be getting a workout too from all the lifting I do. First there’s a can of soft drink, then there’s a packet of crisps and now and again I needs to muster all of my upper body strength for that chocolate cake! Watching sport must be good exercise. I feel the rush of blood when my team finally scores the winning goal and I leap from the sofa. Surely that must be good for my heart!
How to write narratives | Elements | Point of view | Writing third and first person – answers

Practise your skills

Writing in third person

Highlighted are the words that would be changed if the narrative was rewritten in third person.

I couldn’t drag myself from bed. It seemed that the pillow was calling my name. Lying in bed for those last precious moments, the events of the evening slowly came back to me. For a moment I felt casual and unrushed but then the reality of what was before me sank in. I sat bolt upright – any fantasy of crawling back under the covers was gone. I headed for the shower to think.

The re-written narrative in third person:

Suzie couldn’t drag herself from bed. It seemed that the pillow was calling her name. Lying in bed for those last precious moments, the events of the evening slowly came back to her. For a moment she felt casual and unrushed but then the reality of what was before her sank in. Suzie sat bolt upright – any fantasy of crawling back under the covers was gone. She headed for the shower to think.