



ELA Virtual Learning

English II

April 24, 2020



English II
Lesson: April 24, 2020

Objective/Learning Target:

- I can edit writing for Standard English usage, specifically sentence fragments, run-on sentences, and comma splices.



BELL RINGER

Grammar and punctuation are incredibly important in writing. Yet, in the age of social media, Standard English usage is often ignored.

Take a look at the tweet on the following page and correct it for Standard English usage. Consider the questions below:

- **Are there any grammar errors? How so?**
- **Are there any spelling errors? How should the word actually be spelled?**
- **Are there any punctuation errors? What punctuation mark should be used and where?**

BELL RINGER



BELL RINGER

The image shows a screenshot of a tweet from a user named John Doe (@JDoe1989). The tweet text is: "I went to the zoo today. Listening to people spread incorrect information is maddening. Koala Bears aren't actually bears. They are marsupials." There are two red annotations with arrows pointing to specific punctuation marks in the text. The first annotation points to the period at the end of "I went to the zoo today." and says "Add a period to separate these two complete thoughts." The second annotation points to the period at the end of "Koala Bears aren't actually bears." and says "Use a period instead of a comma to fix this comma splice." The tweet is dated 11:32 AM - 28 Feb 2017. The interface includes navigation icons for Home, Moments, Notifications, and Messages, and a "Following" button.

Add a period to separate these two complete thoughts.

I went to the zoo today. Listening to people spread incorrect information is maddening. Koala Bears aren't actually bears. They are marsupials.

Use a period instead of a comma to fix this comma splice.

11:32 AM - 28 Feb 2017

Profile icon designed by Freepik from Flaticon

Congratulations! If you completed the bell work, you just identified a complete thought in grammatical writing.

Make sure your writing is clear and easy to understand by avoiding the following three problems associated with complete thoughts in writing:

Fragment Sentences
Run-on Sentences
Comma Splices





LEARN

A **sentence fragment** is a sentence that has a period but is an incomplete thought.

Example:

Because it is raining.

The example above is a fragment because it is missing something. It feels off and if someone walked up to you on the street and said this you would think they were a lunatic.

How to fix it:

What fragment sentences are often missing is either a subject (a noun or pronoun performing an action) or a verb (an action). In the case above, this fragment is missing both. Let's fix it!

***I have an umbrella** because it is raining.*

There we go! We have a subject (*I*) and a verb (*have*) along with an object (*umbrella*) to boot! Now if someone walked up to you on the street, they would make grammatical sense...though they still might be a lunatic.



LEARN

A **run-on sentence** is a sentence that has two or more complete thoughts that aren't separated by punctuation or a conjunction.

Example:

I went to the grocery store I forgot to get all the food on my list.

The example above is a run-on because there are two complete thoughts squished together without the proper glue.

How to fix it:

There are two ways to fix this problem. The first, and easiest, is to place a period between the two complete thoughts. However, if you feel like the ideas in these two complete thoughts have a strong relationship and deserve to be together in a single sentence, define that relationship with a comma followed by a conjunction.

*I went to the grocery store, **but** I forgot to get all the food on my list.*

So you think you have editing down? We still have one more pesky problem to discuss!



LEARN

A **comma splice** occurs when two complete thoughts are joined together by a comma instead of a period or conjunction.

Example:

Pixar movies are incredible, they should be nominated for every Oscar category.

The example above is a comma splice because, like duct tape, the writer thinks commas fix everything, but there's a better way!

How to fix it:

There are three ways to fix this problem. The first is to place a period between the two complete thoughts. The second is to add a conjunction. The third, and trickiest, is to replace the comma with a semicolon (;). For this fix, just make sure the ideas in the complete thoughts are very closely related.

Pixar movies are incredible; they should be nominated for every Oscar category.

It looks like you're ready to get out into the world and start correcting social media posts like you're William Strunk and E.B. White. (If you don't get the reference, nod your head and Google it later.)



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Need additional help? Check out some of the useful resources linked below.

Sentence Fragments

- [Recognizing Sentence Fragments, Syntax \(Khan Academy\)](#)

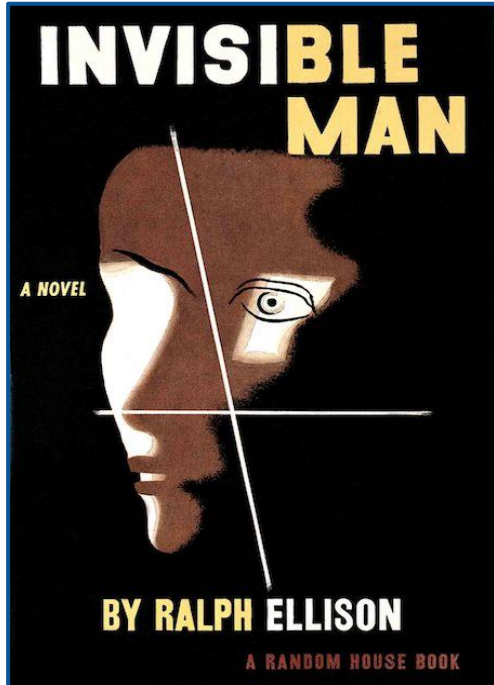
Run-on Sentences & Comma Splices

- [Run-ons and Splices, Syntax \(Khan Academy\)](#)

Invisible Man

- [Invisible Man: Chapter 1 Summary \(Course Hero\)](#)

PRACTICE



Now that we have reviewed **fragments**, **run-ons**, and **comma splices**, let's practice editing writing for clarity by correcting basic punctuation errors in a classic work of literature.

Ralph Ellison's novel *Invisible Man* follows an unnamed narrator as he navigates racial tension, equal opportunity, and the American Dream in 20th century America.

On the following slide is the opening paragraph for *Invisible Man*; however, some of the punctuation has been removed. Using the information on slides 7-10, correct the punctuation, making sure to avoid **fragments**, **run-ons**, and **comma splices**.



PRACTICE

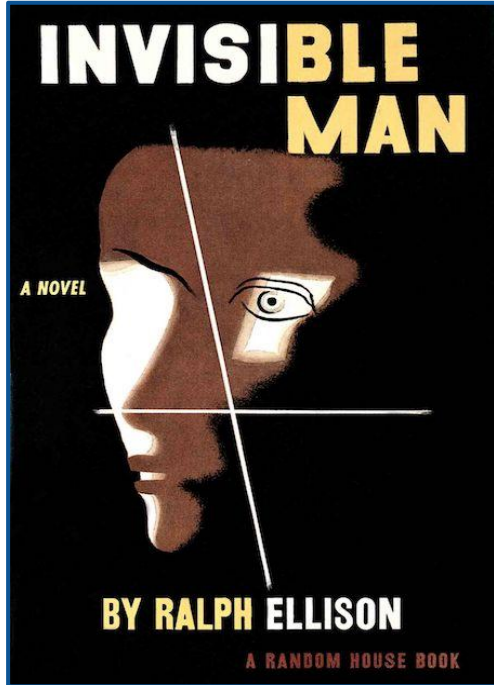
Invisible Man

By Ralph Ellison

Chapter 1 Excerpt

I am an invisible man no, I am not a spook like those who haunted Edgar Allan Poe nor am I one of your Hollywood-movie ectoplasms I am a man of substance, of flesh and bone, fiber and liquids -- and I might even be said to possess a mind I am invisible, understand, simply because people refuse to see me like the bodiless heads you see sometimes in circus sideshows, it is as though I have been surrounded by mirrors of hard, distorting glass when they approach me they see only my surroundings, themselves, or figments of their imagination -- indeed, everything and anything except me.

PRACTICE



Once you have read the passage and fixed its punctuation errors, respond to the prompt below:

When first reading the passage, how difficult was it to understand what the author was trying to say? Were the errors distracting? Was it easy to place the correct punctuation marks? Explain your reasoning for each question.



PRACTICE ANSWER KEY *(Answers will vary)*

- **Check your answer to make sure your response meets the following criteria:**
 - Did you answer all parts of the prompt?
 - Did you use complete sentences and proper conventions (grammar, punctuation, spelling)?
 - Did you explain your reasoning thoroughly?



PRACTICE ANSWER KEY *(Answers will vary)*

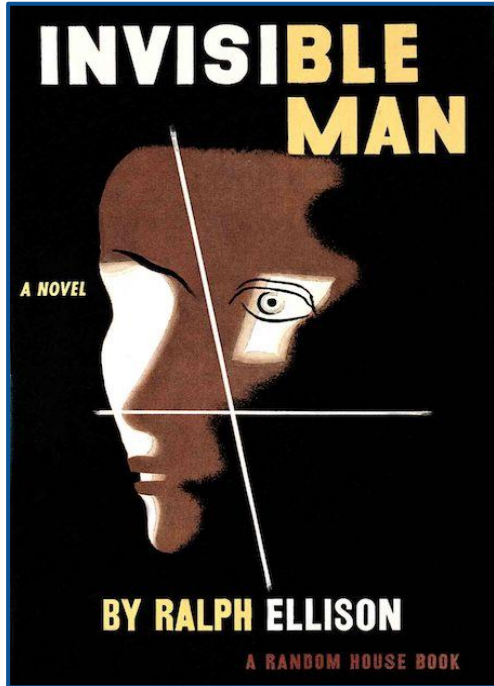
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PRACTICE ANSWER KEY *(Answers will vary)*



When first reading the passage, how difficult was it to understand what the author was trying to say? Were the errors distracting? Was it easy to place the correct punctuation marks? Explain your reasoning for each question.

When I first read this passage, I found it somewhat difficult. The lack of punctuation, specifically periods, were very distracting. This passage has a great deal of deeper meaning; however, I couldn't focus on what it was really trying to say because my attention was stuck on making sure the grammatical, surface level meaning was accurate. Although the periods were somewhat difficult, the real perplexing punctuation mark to correct was the semicolon because I had to determine for the author whether or not the two ideas were closely related enough to justify its use.



EXTENDED ACTIVITY

Want more practice with **fragments**, **run-ons**, and **comma splices**? Gru needs someone to proofread his letter to the U.S. Secretary of Defense about a new invention he thinks can be helpful in our national security. Fix any fragments, run-ons, or comma splices you find.

Hello Defense Secretary Johnson:

I hope your day is going well, I have decided it is vital we install my Lunar-pneumatic Plasma Ray Cannon on the surface of the moon to protect us against mass-extinction asteroids. Afterall, billions of asteroids. The citizens of the world deserve to feel safe nothing provides comfort and security like knowing the moon you sleep beneath can vaporize an asteroid the size of Texas or Texas itself if it misfires, that has only happened once.

Thank you for your consideration,
Felonius Gru





EXTENDED ACTIVITY ANSWER KEY

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Thank you for your consideration,
Felonius Gru





REFLECTION

Today's learning targets are listed below:

- 1. I can edit writing for Standard English usage, specifically sentence fragments, run-on sentences, and comma splices.**

On a scale of 1-5, how confident do you feel with each of today's learning target?
What did you struggle on? What did you understand the best?

1 = I still need to work on it

5 = I know I've mastered it!