

**GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS FOR ACTIVE READING**

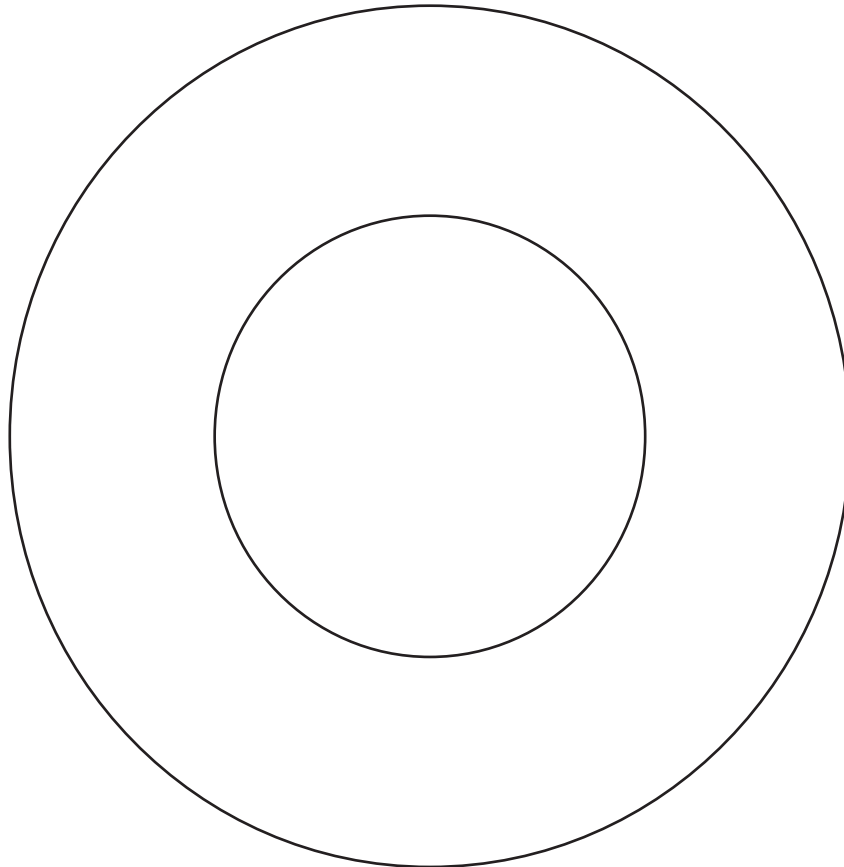
# Shooting an Elephant

George Orwell

Pupil's Edition page 1138

## An Enemy Within

In the inner circle, identify and describe the enemy according to the Burmese people. In the outer circle, identify and describe the enemy from the speaker's perspective.



Look up the definition of *enemy* in a dictionary. How do different enemies in the story match this definition? How do they differ? Why? On the lines provided, write one paragraph in which you answer these questions.

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## Shooting an Elephant

Circle the letter next to the best way to revise or combine the underlined section. If the section needs no change, mark "Correct as is."

No matter how long the British lived in their  
 1  
colonies remaining outsiders. As a police officer  
 in Asia, George Orwell was aware that being within  
 another culture kindled conflicts. Who was  
*his* enemy? Look for his answer in "Shooting an  
 2  
Elephant," this essay is set in Burma.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1 A No matter how long the British lived in their colonies. They remained outsiders.</p> <p>B No matter how long the British lived in their colonies, they remained outsiders.</p> <p>C No matter how long the British lived in their colonies, but remained outsiders.</p> <p>D Correct as is</p> | <p>2 F Look for his answer in "Shooting an Elephant," this essay is set in Burma.</p> <p>G Look for his answer in "Shooting an Elephant," and this essay is set in Burma.</p> <p>H Look for his answer in "Shooting an Elephant." This essay is set in Burma.</p> <p>J Correct as is</p> |
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**GRAMMAR LINK**

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**Revising Fused Sentences and Comma Splices**

A run-on sentence is two sentences that are joined as if they are a single thought. There are two types of run-on sentences. A **fused sentence** has no punctuation between two complete thoughts. A sentence with a **comma splice** has just a comma between two complete thoughts.

**FUSED:** He is a British police officer he is hated by everyone.

**COMMA SPLICE:** He is a British police officer, he is hated by everyone.

The following chart provides suggestions for ways to avoid fused sentences and sentences with comma splices. Notice how the different ways of revising the run-on sentence create different shades of meaning.

<p><b>Create two sentences:</b></p> <p>He is a British police officer. He is hated by everyone.</p>
<p><b>Use a comma and a coordinating conjunction (<i>and, but, or, for, nor, so, yet</i>):</b></p> <p>He is a British police officer, <b>so</b> he is hated by everyone.</p>
<p><b>Change one of the independent clauses to a subordinate clause:</b></p> <p><b>Because</b> he is a British police officer, he is hated by everyone.</p>
<p><b>Use a semicolon:</b></p> <p>He is a British police officer; he is hated by everyone.</p>
<p><b>Use a semicolon and a conjunctive adverb such as <i>also, besides, finally, likewise, moreover, then, or therefore</i>:</b></p> <p>He is a British police officer; <b>therefore,</b> he is hated by everyone.</p>

**EXERCISE A Identifying Fused Sentences and Comma Splices**

In the blank before each item, write F for fused sentence, C for comma splice, or OK if the sentence is *not* a run-on sentence.

**EXAMPLE:**     F     The officer is young he is ill-educated. [The sentence is fused because there are two complete thoughts with no punctuation between them.]

- 1. Shooting the elephant seems a trivial incident it has great significance for the young police officer.
- 2. A British officer is expected to act with authority, he does not want to be embarrassed in front of the Burmese people.
- 3. He does not want to kill the elephant, but he has no choice.
- 4. He has mortally wounded the elephant, the elephant's death is slow and agonizing.
- 5. The police officer has been taught that the ruling class must always show authority and strength before those they rule, he does not like this age-old code.

**WORDS TO OWN****Shooting an Elephant**

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**Synonyms and Antonyms**

The first word in each of the following word pairs is a Word to Own. Write **S** in the blank if the second word in the pair is a synonym of the Word to Own; write **A** if the second word is an antonym. You may need a dictionary or a thesaurus for this activity.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. supplant : supersede

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. labyrinth : tangle

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. squalid : clean

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. senility : alertness

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. pretext : alibi

**Context Clues**

Using context clues and definitions of the Words to Own, circle the word that correctly completes each sentence. Underline any context clues that help you choose the correct word.

**EXAMPLE:** European (*impression*, dominion) created problems in Southeast Asia that lasted after the former colonies were free of European rule.

1. Sometimes, after one ruler is defeated, another arises to (*labyrinth*, *supplant*) the deposed one.
2. Orwell describes one quarter of the town as being (*squalid*, *supplanted*) and complex, with muddy streets and ramshackle huts.
3. Orwell compares the behavior of the fallen, wounded elephant to the ravages of (*senility*, *squalid*).
4. The young colonial police officer was glad to find a legal (*labyrinth*, *pretext*) for shooting the elephant.
5. The bazaar was a (*squalid*, *labyrinth*) of turns and passages.

**Correct or Incorrect?**

On the lines provided, write **C** if the italicized Word to Own is used correctly or **I** if it is used incorrectly.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. George Orwell's fear of the crowd *supplants* his conviction that he should not kill the elephant.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The elephant is well-groomed and *squalid*.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The crowd believes that Orwell is so confused that he has descended into *senility*.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. On the *pretext* of killing the elephant, Orwell lifts his gun and shoots.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The gun is a *labyrinth* of the best German machinery.

## READING MINI-TEST

# SHOOTING AN ELEPHANT

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**Analogies:** For each of the following items, determine the relationship between the first pair of words. Then, on the line provided, write the letter of the answer choice that *best* expresses the same relationship as that of the original pair. (32 points; 8 points each)

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|---|--|
| <p>_____ 1. PRISTINE :SQUALID ::</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">A scandalized :discouraged</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">B preoccupied :fretful</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">C conventional :unusual</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">D intentional :deliberate</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">E sprawling :diffuse</p> | <p>_____ 3. FORGETFULNESS :SENILITY ::</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">A richness :sterility</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">B flabbiness :humility</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">C sluggishness : activity</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">D hostility :compatibility</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">E cruelty :savagery</p> |
| <p>_____ 2. AIM :RIFLE ::</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">A devour :maze</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">B waste : rubbish</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">C slash :bamboo</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">D swing :ax</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">E confound :information</p>  | <p>_____ 4. PRETEXT : PRETENSE ::</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">A remnant : remainder</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">B agony :ecstasy</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">C elephant : Burma</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">D hillside :mound</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">E behavior :psychology</p>                         |

**Sentence Completion:** Each blank in the following items indicates that a word has been omitted. For each item, choose the word or set of words that *best* completes the sentence. Write the letter of your choice on the line provided before the number. (32 points; 8 points each)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>_____ 5. According to the subinspector, the elephant is in a _____ state and is _____ the quarter in a variety of ways.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">A jostling . . . experiencing</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">B feeble . . . upsetting</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">C frenzied . . . ravaging</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">D speculative . . . questioning</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">E devilish . . . invigorating</p> | <p>_____ 7. As the situation becomes more complex, Orwell is increasingly _____ by the crowd's _____ desire for slaughter.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">A insulted . . . appropriate</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">B encouraged . . . unsettling</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">C scrutinized . . . questionable</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">D dismayed . . . appalling</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">E comforted . . . disturbing</p> |
| <p>_____ 6. Already unsure of himself, Orwell is even more _____ by the thousands of spectators who mysteriously emerge from the labyrinth of huts to watch the shooting.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">A praised</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">B discomfited</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">C outraged</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">D offended</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">E reassured</p>                                       | <p>_____ 8. After he is shot, the elephant's pre-occupied expression is _____ by one of confusion.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">A grasped</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">B compelled</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">C observed</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">D determined</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">E supplanted</p>  |