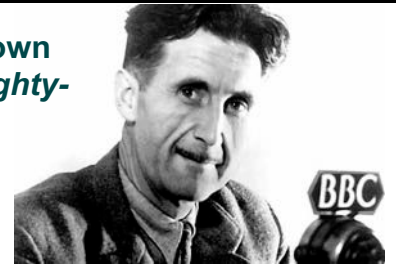


Eric Blair was an English novelist and radio journalist. He is known by his pen name *George Orwell*. He is the author of *Nineteen Eighty-Four* and *Animal Farm*.



Orwell was born in India and educated in England. He served for five years in the Burmese police force and also spent some time living as a tramp, earning a bit of money by washing dishes. He used these experiences later in some of his novels, as well as the memories of his time he spent fighting for the Republicans in the Spanish Civil War. Orwell worked as a journalist, but he became famous as a novelist in the last few years of his life.

In 1945 he wrote *Animal Farm*. The book describes how some farm animals first get rid of their harsh master, Mr Jones, only to suffer even worse cruelties from their own ruthless pig-rulers. In fact,



Orwell was really attacking the way that the Russian Revolution of 1917 was betrayed by the tyrant Stalin, who ended up behaving even more badly than the former tsar. Three years later, in 1948, Orwell wrote *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, a novel set in what was then the future. It described a bleak world where workers must exercise every day in front of a "tele-screen" which also spies on them. Anyone showing any signs of independence is caught and executed. It is a powerful novel describing the horrors of total dictatorship.

The **Spanish Civil War** was fought from 1936 to 1939 between the **Republicans** (the socialists and communists), who were loyal to the established Spanish republic, and the **Nationalists** (the fascists), a rebel group led by General Franco. The Nationalists prevailed and Franco would rule Spain for the next 36 years.

novel: fiction book
to educate: to teach
tramp: homeless person
to get rid of: to do away with
harsh: strict
to suffer: to bear

ruthless: hard-hearted
ruler: chief
to betray: to let down
to behave: to act
former: ancient
tsar: Russian emperor

bleak: miserable
to spy: search out
independence: liberty
executed: killed
dictatorship: tyranny

Change the sentences into the past tense:

was

Eric Blair **is** a journalist. His pen name is *George Orwell*. He goes to school in England. He serves in the police forces. He lives as a tramp. He earns money by washing dishes. He fights for the Republicans in the Spanish Civil War. He becomes famous as a novelist. He writes *Animal Farm* in 1945. The

STRONG (IRREGULAR) VERBS

be	was/were	been
go	went	gone
fight	fought	fought
become	became	become
write	wrote	written

book becomes a best seller. *Nineteen Eighty-Four* describes the horrors of dictatorship. Orwell invents a new language. He calls it *Newspeak*. The word *bad* becomes *ungood*, *great* is changed into *plusgood*. The *ministry of love* is actually the place of torture for people who commit *thoughtcrime*. Orwell creates new slogans: *BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU* or *FREEDOM IS SLAVERY*.