

Elementary



A2+

R A I N B O W S

# The Invisible Man

Herbert George Wells



edisco





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Herbert George Wells

# The Invisible Man

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**edisco**

# The Invisible Man

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# The Author

## Herbert George Wells

**Herbert George Wells** (1866-1946) was born in Bromley, a town in South East London. He had a difficult early life.



In 1874, he had a very bad accident, so he had to stay in bed for a long time. He started to read a lot of books from the local library. At the end of this period, he decided to become a writer. After two unhappy years working in a shop, Wells became a student assistant at Midhurst Grammar School. From here, in 1884, he won a scholarship<sup>1</sup> to the Normal School of Science, London. After this, he started the life of a school teacher again. In 1890, he took a degree<sup>2</sup> in

zoology and wrote biology and geography textbooks. In 1891, he got married to his cousin Isabel but his life was unhappy. His second wife was Amy Robbins, married in 1895; he lived the rest of his life with her. He was a member of the Fabian Society<sup>3</sup> and very interested in the political problems of his time. He was a brilliant writer and wrote about fifty novels<sup>4</sup> that can be divided into three groups.

1. *scholarship*: a sum of money given by a school, college, university, or other organization to pay for the studies of a person with great ability but little money.
2. *degree*: the qualification given to a student who has done a course of study at a college or university.
3. *Fabian Society*: a British socialist

organisation whose purpose is to advance the principles of democratic socialism. As founder of the Labour Party in 1900, it has influenced British policy to the present day.

4. *novel*: a long story about imaginary characters and events.

The first group includes his scientific or fantasy novels, in the style of Jules Verne, but at a higher artistic level. Together with the French writer, he is called the “father of science fiction<sup>5</sup>”. His first novels were: *The Time Machine* (1895), followed by *The Island of Dr Moreau* (1896), *The Invisible Man* (1897), *The War of the Worlds* (1898), *When the Sleeper Wakes* (1899), *The First Men in the Moon* (1901).

These novels are about the possible dangers of science or creatures<sup>6</sup> from different worlds. These works are considered an early sign of Wells’s later worries<sup>7</sup> about the social and political situation.

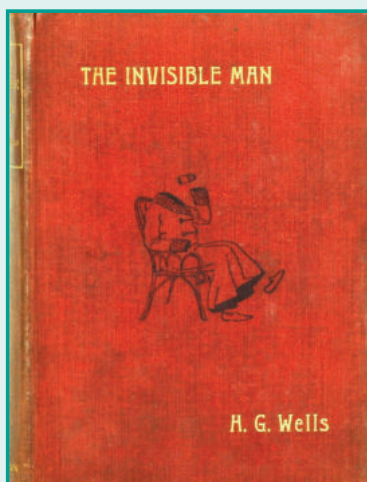
The second group includes comic novels, such as *Love and Mrs Lewisham* (1900), *Kipps* (1905) and *The History of Mr Polly* (1910).

The third and last group includes novels of ideas, which have educational and moralistic purposes<sup>8</sup>: *A Modern Utopia* (1905), *Tono-Bungay* (1909), *The New Machiavelli* (1911), *Mrs Britling Sees It Through* (1916), *Men Like Gods* (1923), *The World of William Clissold* (1926).

Wells’s best works are certainly the scientific or fantasy novels of the first period and some of the comic novels. Today his novels of ideas are not generally read and are considered out of date<sup>9</sup>.

Wells died on 13<sup>th</sup> August, 1946.

5. *science fiction*: a book or film based on imagined scientific facts of the future.
6. *creature*: a living thing, real or imaginary, that can move around.
7. *worry*: a feeling that you have when you are unhappy and frightened about something.
8. *purpose*: why you do something or why something exists; aim, function.
9. *out of date*: old and not fashionable.



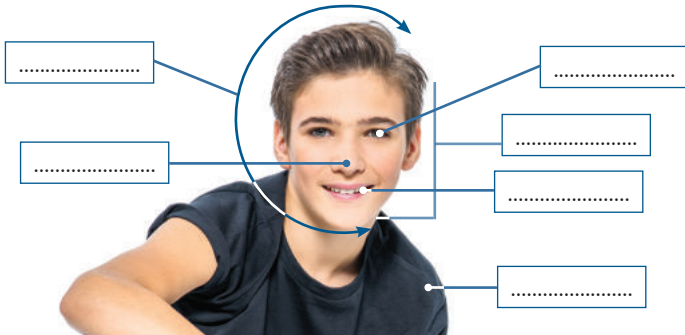
First edition cover



**BEFORE READING**

- 1 Label the picture below with the different parts of the human body. Choose from the words in the box.

eye • face • head • mouth • nose • shoulder



- 2 Look at the *clothes* below and match each word in the box with the correct picture.

coat • glasses • gloves • hat • scarf • shoes



a. ....



b. ....



c. ....



d. ....



e. ....



f. ....

- 3 Match each word to its definition.

- |              |                          |   |
|--------------|--------------------------|---|
| a. dry (v.)  | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Going down.  |
| b. equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. How large or small something or someone is.                      |
| c. falling   | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. An empty space in an object.                                     |
| d. hole      | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. The things that are needed for a particular purpose or activity. |
| e. size      | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. To take out water.   |



# The Invisible Man

## The arrival of the stranger

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### Chapter 1

It was a cold, windy and snowy day in February. A stranger<sup>1</sup> opened the door of the “Coach<sup>2</sup> and Horses”, an inn<sup>3</sup> in the village of Iping. He was wearing a large hat and big glasses with dark blue lenses<sup>4</sup>. A scarf was covering all his face except the pink end of his nose. He was wearing black gloves; a long coat covered him from head to foot. He was carrying a small suitcase. There was a lot of snow on his hat, his shoulders and his suitcase.

“A fire!” he cried, “Please, a room and a fire!”

“Oh, yes, sir. Please follow me,” a woman said.

He followed Mrs Hall, the landlady<sup>5</sup>, into the room; then he gave her two pounds. Mrs Hall started the fire and then went to cook him a meal. She was very happy to have a guest at this time of the year.

When Mrs Hall came back to lay<sup>6</sup> the table, the fire was burning<sup>7</sup> and the room was quite warm now. So she was surprised to see that the visitor still wore his hat and coat. He was standing with his back to her and was looking out of the window at the falling snow.

“Can I take your hat and coat, sir?” she said. “I’ll put them to dry in the kitchen.”

“No,” he said without turning his face. “I prefer to keep them on,” the man said brusquely<sup>8</sup>.

“As you like, sir,” she said. “Soon the room will be warmer.”

Mrs Hall went out of the room. When she returned with the meal, the man was still standing there, all dressed from head to foot. She could not see his face.

“Your lunch is served, sir,” she said, putting the food on the table.

“Thank you,” he said without turning his back.

1. *stranger*: a person that you do not know.

2. *coach*:



3. *inn*: a pub where you can stay for

the night, usually in the countryside.

4. *lenses*: curved pieces of glass that make things look larger.

5. *landlady*: a woman who owns or manages a pub or an inn.

6. *lay*: to prepare, to set.

7. *was burning*: was on fire; produced flames.

8. *brusquely*: in a quick and rude way.

## The Invisible Man

---

Mrs Hall went back into the kitchen. After a few minutes, she realised<sup>9</sup> that the guest had no water to drink, so she went back to his room. She knocked at<sup>10</sup> the door and entered without waiting for an answer. The stranger was sitting at the table and was eating his meal. She saw that he had white bandages<sup>11</sup> all around his head. He was still wearing his gloves and dark glasses. His strange pink nose came out of the bandages. His coat and hat were on a chair in front of the fire.

“May I take your hat and coat and dry them now?” she said.

“Leave the hat on the chair,” the stranger said.

His voice was not clear because he held a piece of cloth on his mouth. Mrs Hall saw all those bandages and said,

“Oh, I’m sorry... I didn’t know, sir..., I’ll go and dry your coat.”

“Very well, thank you,” the man said coldly.

Mrs Hall went back into the kitchen and said to Millie, her maid<sup>12</sup>,

“That poor man had an accident or an operation. He’s got bandages all around his head! And he wears gloves and dark glasses all the time.”

When Mrs Hall went back to the room to clear<sup>13</sup> the table, the man said to her,

“I have some luggage<sup>14</sup> at the station. Can I have it here?”

“Of course, sir. You will have it tomorrow.”

“Tomorrow? Can’t I have it before tonight?”

“No, I’m sorry. It’s a dangerous road with all this snow. Accidents, sir, may happen in a moment. And it takes a long time to get better. Isn’t that true, sir? I think you know what I mean...”

“Yes,” the man said brusquely.

Mrs Hall thought that the stranger did not want to talk about accidents, operations and bandages. So she went downstairs.

9. *realise*: to understand a situation, sometimes suddenly.

10. *knocked at/on*: hit (the door) more than one time.

11. *bandage*: a long, narrow piece of cloth that is tied around an injury.

12. *maid*: a woman that works in a hotel or in someone’s home,

doing jobs such as cooking and cleaning.

13. *clear*: to take something away from a place.

14. *luggage*: bags, cases, etc. that contain your clothes and things when you are travelling.



Illustration by Carlo Nicco, Paravia, 1925

## The Invisible Man

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At four o'clock, Teddy Henfrey, the clock repairer<sup>15</sup>, came into the bar of the inn. Mrs Hall saw that he had his bag with him and asked him,

"Have you got time to repair a clock in a room? It doesn't work well."

Henfrey said yes and she took him to the stranger's room.

She knocked at the door and again entered without waiting for an answer. She saw that her guest was sitting in the armchair opposite the fire. He was sleeping but he still had the white bandages around his head; he was still wearing his black gloves and dark glasses. For a second, she thought that the man had a very large mouth. It was wide open. Suddenly<sup>16</sup>, the man woke up and put a scarf around his mouth immediately.

"Do you mind, sir, if this man has a look at the clock?" Mrs Hall said.

"A look at the clock?" he said from behind his scarf. "Well, actually, I thought that this room was mine for my own private use."

"Yes, sir," Mrs Hall said, "but isn't it better to have a clock that works well?"

"Certainly," the stranger said, "certainly. But, normally, I want to be alone and I don't want to be disturbed."

When Henfrey saw the man with all the bandages and the dark blue glasses, he was a bit shocked<sup>17</sup>. While Henfrey was repairing the clock, the stranger asked Mrs Hall,

"What about my luggage at the station?"

"Ah, you'll have it tomorrow morning, sir."

"All right, then. Well, listen, I'm a scientist<sup>18</sup>. I need my luggage because it contains<sup>19</sup> my equipment. I came here to Iping to work on my experiments. I don't want to be disturbed while I'm working."

"Of course, sir. Don't worry."

"Some time ago I had an accident... So my eyes need darkness."

"Certainly, sir, I understand," Mrs Hall said, feeling sorry for the man.

15. *repairer*: a person that fixes things.

16. *suddenly*: quickly and in a not expected way.

17. *shocked*: surprised and worried.

18. *scientist*: an expert that studies or works in one of the sciences.

19. *contain*: to have inside.





C. Rain in *The Invisible Man* by J. Whale, Universal Pictures, 1933

The next morning, the postman arrived with the stranger's luggage. There were two large suitcases, a big box of books and many other boxes full of bottles of different sizes. The stranger, covered from head to foot, came out of the inn. As soon as the postman's dog saw the stranger, it attacked him and bit<sup>20</sup> his right leg. Everyone shouted. The stranger ran back into the inn and went to his room.

"Oh, no! I'll go upstairs and see how he is," Mr Hall said.

But as soon as he arrived at the room, the stranger pushed him away. Then he slammed<sup>21</sup> the door and locked<sup>22</sup> it. Mr Hall went downstairs surprised and a bit afraid.

After a few minutes, the stranger came out of the inn with a new pair of trousers and said,

"Don't worry about me, I'm fine. But now take my luggage into my room."

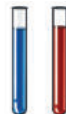
When all the luggage was in his room, the stranger pulled out hundreds of different bottles and test tubes<sup>23</sup>, and all the books. The room was in a terrible mess<sup>24</sup>.

20. *bit (bite-bit-bitten)*: used its teeth to cut into something or someone.

21. *slammed*: closed (the door) with a lot of force, making a loud noise.

22. *locked*: closed (the door) with a key.

23. *test tubes*:



24. *in a mess*: not tidy.

## The Invisible Man

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Later, Mrs Hall took dinner to the stranger. He turned his head and immediately turned it away again. He was not wearing his glasses. It seemed to her<sup>25</sup> that he had black holes in the place of his eyes! He put on his glasses again and then turned back again.

“You must knock at the door before coming in! Is that clear?” he said in a very angry voice.

“I knocked, but you didn’t answer,” Mrs Hall said a little annoyed<sup>26</sup>.

“Perhaps you did, but when I am concentrating<sup>27</sup> on my work, I can’t hear anything. If someone comes in, they disturb me. So I will lock the door now,” the man said.

“All right, sir, as you like,” Mrs Hall said annoyed and went out.

All afternoon he worked in silence with the door locked. Suddenly, Mrs Hall heard the sound of bottles and then a very loud noise. She decided to go upstairs and check. She went to the door and heard these words,

“I can’t go on,” the man was saying. “No, I can’t go on living like this all my life! I’m a fool, a fool! But I must be patient...”

25. *it seemed to her*: she had the impression.

26. *annoyed*: angry, irritated.

27. *concentrate*: to direct your attention towards a particular activity.



## WORKING ON THE TEXT

## 1 Answer the following questions.







- Why do you think Mrs Hall was happy to have a guest at this time of the year?
- What did Mrs Hall want to do with the stranger's clothes?
- What did Mrs Hall see the second time she went into the stranger's room?
- What did she think about the stranger when she went downstairs?
- What did the stranger do immediately when Mrs Hall and the clock repairer entered his room?
- Why did the stranger need his luggage from the station?
- What was there in his luggage?
- What happened when the stranger came out of the inn to collect his luggage?
- When Mrs Hall went into the stranger's room to take dinner, she thought that she saw something strange. What was it?
- What did the stranger decide to do to the door of his room?

## 2 Decide if the following sentences are true or false.

- |   | T                        | F                        |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. The stranger is wearing a scarf that covers his face totally.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. The room is warm but the stranger doesn't take off his coat.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. When Mrs Hall goes to the stranger's room for a second time, he is still wearing all his clothes.            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Mrs Hall takes all the stranger's clothes to dry them.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. Mr Henfrey is a bit shocked because he sees the man with bandages all around his head and dark blue glasses. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f. The stranger is in Iping to find a job.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g. The suitcases, the books, the boxes with bottles arrive the following day.                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| h. The stranger's room was in a state of complete disorder.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| i. Mrs Hall never knocks at the stranger's door before going in.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| j. When Mrs Hall goes upstairs the last time, she hears words full of despair.                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

WORKING ON VOCABULARY

3 Complete each space with an adjective referring to the weather.

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <p>a</p>  <p>It is rainy</p> | <p>b</p>  <p>It is .....</p> | <p>c</p>  <p>It is .....</p> |
| <p>d</p>  <p>It is .....</p> | <p>e</p>  <p>It is .....</p> | <p>f</p>  <p>It is .....</p> |

4 Complete each space with a letter to make a word from Chapter 1.

- Mrs Hall was S U R P R I S E D to see the stranger's bandages.
- The stranger was sitting at the table and was E T N G his meal.
- The stranger had B N A G E all around his head.
- It's a D N E R U S road with all this snow.
- The man put a scarf around his mouth I M D I T L Y.
- The stranger came to Iping to work on his E P R I M N S.
- The stranger came out of the inn with a new pair of I O S E R S.
- Later, Mrs Hall took dinner to the S R N G E.

WORKING ON GRAMMAR

5 Put the verbs in brackets into the *Past Continuous*.

- The villagers (*drink*) ..... beer in the inn.
- The stranger (*wear*) ..... a large hat and dark glasses.
- (*a scarf / cover*) ..... all of the stranger's face?
- The stranger (*not / carry*) ..... much luggage.
- "Millie, what (*you / do*) ..... when the stranger called me?"
- The stranger (*sit*) ..... at the table and (*eat*) .....
- The visitor (*sleep*) ..... in an armchair.
- While Henfrey (*repair*) ..... the clock, the stranger asked Mrs Hall about his luggage.



## WORKING ON SKILLS

## Listening



**Key for schools** LISTENING PART 3 You will hear Mr Hall talking to Henfrey, the clock repairer, about the stranger. For each question, choose the correct answer.

- Many people think that ..... has problems at home.
  - Henfrey
  - Hall
  - Hall's wife
- Henfrey says that Mr Hall's guest is .....
  - strange
  - a stranger
  - stronger
- The stranger is covered with bandages, wears dark glasses .....
  - but is polite
  - and is polite
  - and is not polite
- Henfrey says that Mr Hall should at least know his guest's .....
  - face
  - name
  - address
- Henfrey says that tomorrow morning many ..... are arriving.
  - bags and suitcases
  - empty suitcases
  - serious problems

## Writing

- 7 What is the stranger wearing and carrying when he enters the inn? Write a short paragraph of about 50 words in your exercise book.

## Speaking

- 8 PAIR WORK. **Student A:** you are Mr Hall. You have heard about the stranger from Mr Henfrey, the clock repairer. Ask Mrs Hall questions about the new guest.

**Student B:** you are Mrs Hall. Tell your husband what you know about the stranger.

**Start like this:**

*Mr Hall:* What do you know about our guest?

*Henfrey* says that he's very strange.

*Mrs Hall:* I don't know much about him. I only know that he's here in Ipsing to work on some experiments.

**Some ideas:**

*Mr Hall:* Ask what the stranger looks like.

*Mrs Hall:* Answer that you have never seen his face and talk about his bandages, hat, glasses, gloves, etc.

*Mr Hall:* Bandages!? Ask what happened to him.

*Mrs Hall:* Answer that you think he had an accident or an operation.



## INNS AND STAGECOACHES<sup>1</sup>

A stranger opened the door of the “Coach and Horses”, an inn in the village of Iping. This is one of the first sentences of this novel, written by H.G. Wells in 1897. At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, railways were present in many towns. There were only a few inns that gave assistance to a **coach** and its **horses**. These inns were mainly<sup>2</sup> in small villages, like Iping. Very often the inn continued to have the same traditional name although<sup>3</sup> there was no assistance anymore.



A modern inn that still keeps the old name.

The **stagecoach** first appeared on English roads in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century. It was called a stagecoach because it travelled “in stages”<sup>4</sup> of 10 to 15 miles (about 16 to 24 km). At an inn, horses were changed and travellers had a meal or a drink, or stayed for the night.

Early coach travel was slow – in 1673, it took eight days to travel by coach from London to Exeter in Devon!

In 1750, it took about four and a half days to travel from Manchester to London and two days to travel from Cambridge to London. In 1820, the journey from Cambridge to London lasted<sup>5</sup> less than seven hours.

1. *stagecoach*: (in the past) a covered vehicle pulled by horses that carried passengers, goods and often mail, along a regular route.
2. *mainly*: principally, generally.
3. *although*: despite the fact that.
4. *in stages*: in a series of separate steps rather than all at one time.
5. *lasted*: went on for (a certain period of time).

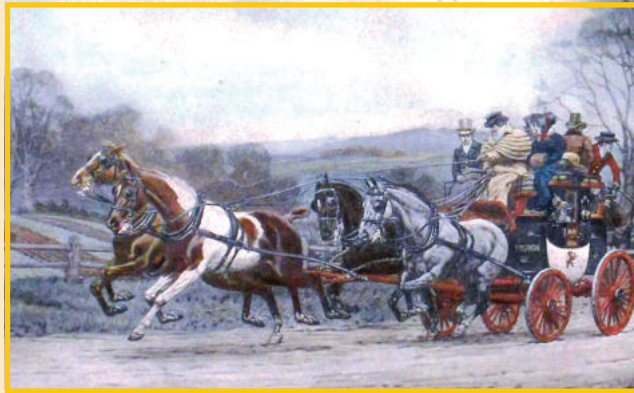


A stagecoach that carried passengers and mail (17<sup>th</sup> century).

The first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century was the 'golden age' of the stagecoach – they travelled at around 12 miles (about 20 km) per<sup>6</sup> hour. The stagecoach was also important for the **postal service**.

The main function of inns was to give fresh horses. But they were also restaurants, hotels, travel agencies and sometimes post offices. The person in charge of an inn was often a woman (landlady). Some inns were famous for their good service and food.

The arrival of the train ended the era<sup>8</sup> of the stagecoaches by around 1850, except in some parts of the countryside. About seventy years later, travelling by car became popular and so many old inns began to live again.



A stagecoach of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.



A train in Victoria Station (London) at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

6. *per*: for each.

7. *in charge of*: responsible for.

8. *era*: period.



## The Invisible Man

*A quiet country village is upset by the arrival of a stranger who is always covered from head to foot – he wears a large hat, a scarf, dark glasses, bandages all around his head and has a strange pink nose. But soon the villagers find out why the strange man is always dressed like that. He is a scientist who has done an extraordinary experiment on himself... What are its effects? Why is everybody terribly scared? The reader is enriched by stimulating inserts about science fiction plus invisibility in literature, science and cinema.*

### beginner

- **A1** (*Breakthrough*)

### ✓ elementary

- **A2** (*Waystage*)

### pre-intermediate

- **B1** (*Threshold*)

### intermediate

- **B2** (*Vantage*)

### post-intermediate

- **C1** (*Effectiveness*)

#### Levels of accredited examination boards:

|                         |                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cambridge English:      | <i>Preliminary (PET)</i>  |
| Trinity:                | <i>Grade 5, 6 / ISE I</i> |
| City & Guilds (Pitman): | <i>Intermediate</i>       |
| ESB:                    | <i>Intermediate 1, 2</i>  |
| Edexcel:                | <i>Elementary</i>         |

Teacher's Resources available online:  
Answer Key, Audioscripts, Summing-up Activities.

[www.edisco.it/rainbows](http://www.edisco.it/rainbows)

