
Additional Suggested Activities (Continued)

Punctuation Exercises

One way to give your children practice in handwriting and grammar at the same time is to give them a paragraph or two from one of their regular exercises or story books that you use in teaching them English.

However, what we want you to do is to eliminate all spaces between words and all punctuation marks. Now, as they copy, they must think. Inside the following box is a sample of this type of exercise. In the second box is what it should look like with proper spacing and capitalization and punctuation.

**abouttheauthorsamuellanghorneclemenswasborninfloridami
ssouriin1835althoughheleftschoolwhenhewasonlytwelveyear
soldhebecameamanofmanyinterestsandoccupationshebegan
hiscareerasaprinterthenbecameapilotofamississippiriverboat
afterwardswhenheworkedasajournalisttravelwriterandpublish
erclemensdecidedtouseapennamemarktwaincamefromcleme
nsriverboatdayswhenmeasuringthedepthofthewaterwascale
dmarkingthetwain**

What the above should look like:

About the Author

Samuel Langhorne Clemens was born in Florida, Missouri in 1835. Although he left school when he was only twelve years old, he became a man of many interests and occupations. He began his career as a printer then became a pilot of a Mississippi riverboat. Afterwards, when he worked as a journalist, travel writer, and publisher, Clemens decided to use a pen name. “Mark Twain” came from Clemens’ riverboat days, when measuring the depth of the water was called “marking the twain.” *

*From: *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* as adapted by Deidre S. Laiken. New York, NY: Baronet Books, 1990.