



**grammar dog.com**

grammar, style, and proofreading exercises

**The Grammar Dog Guide to  
A Midsummer  
Night's Dream  
by William Shakespeare**

**All exercises use sentences from the play.  
Includes over 250 multiple choice questions.**

## About Grammartdog

Grammartdog was founded in 2001 by Mary Jane McKinney, a high school English teacher and dedicated grammarian. She and other experienced English teachers in both high school and college regard grammar and style as the key to unlocking the essence of an author.

Their philosophy, that grammar and literature are best understood when learned together, led to the formation of Grammartdog.com, a means of sharing knowledge about the structure and patterns of language unique to specific authors. These patterns are what make a great book *a great book*. The arduous task of analyzing works for grammar and style has yielded a unique product, guaranteed to enlighten the reader of literary classics.

Grammartdog's strategy is to put the author's words under the microscope. The result yields an increased appreciation of the art of writing and awareness of the importance and power of language.



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*A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM* by William Shakespeare – Grammar and Style  
*All exercises use sentences from the play.*

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**SAMPLE EXERCISES - A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM**

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**EXERCISE 5            COMPLEMENTS**

Identify the complements in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

*d.o.* = direct object

*i.o.* = indirect object

*p.n.* = predicate nominative

*o.p.* = object of preposition

*p.a.* = predicate adjective

**ACT I**

- \_\_\_1.        This man hath bewitched the bosom of my child.
  
- \_\_\_2.        Marry, our play is "The most Lamentable Comedy and most Cruel Death of Pyramus and Thisby."
  
- \_\_\_3.        I'll speak in a monstrous little voice: -- "Thisne, Thisne!"

**EXERCISE 6            PHRASES**

Identify the phrases in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

*par* = participial

*ger* = gerund

*inf* = infinitive

*appos* = appositive

*prep* = prepositional

**ACT I**

- \_\_\_1.        Full of vexation come I, with complaint against my child, my daughter Hermia.
  
- \_\_\_2.        And, my gracious duke, be it so she will not here before your Grace consent to marry with Demetrius . . .
  
- \_\_\_3.        Thrice blessed they that master so their blood to undergo such maiden pilgrimage; but earthlier happy is the rose distilled than that which, withering on the virgin thorn, grows, lives, and dies in single blessedness.

**EXERCISE 9            STYLE: FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE**

Identify the figurative language in the following sentences. Label underlined words:

*p* = personification

*s* = simile

*m* = metaphor

*o* = onomatopoeia

*h* = hyperbole

**ACT I**

- \_\_\_1.        And then the moon, like to a silver bow new-bent in heaven, shall behold the night of our solemnities.
  
- \_\_\_2.        Or, if there were a sympathy in choice, war, death, or sickness did lay siege to it, making it momentany as a sound, swift as a shadow, short as any dream, brief as the lightning in the collied night . . .
  
- \_\_\_3.        Your eyes are lodestars, and your tongue's sweet air more tuneable than lark to shepherd's ear when wheat is green . . .

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**EXERCISE 12      STYLE: ALLUSIONS AND ANACHRONISMS**

Identify anachronisms and types of allusions in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

a. anachronism      b. mythology      c. literature      d. folklore/superstition

**ACT I**

- \_\_\_1.      Upon that day either prepare to die for disobedience to your father's will, or else wed Demetrius, as he would, or on Diana's altar to protest for aye austerity and single life.
- \_\_\_2.      . . . you can endure the livery of a nun, for aye to be in shady cloister mewed . . .
- \_\_\_3.      I swear to thee by . . . that fire which burned the Carthage queen when the false Trojan under sail was seen . . .

**EXERCISE 13      STYLE: LITERARY ANALYSIS – SELECTED PASSAGE 1**

Read the following passage the first time through for meaning.

*Helena.* How happy some o'er other some can be!  
Through Athens I am thought as fair as she.  
But what of that? Demetrius thinks not so;  
He will not know what all but he do know.  
And as he errs, doting on Hermia's eyes,  
So I, admiring of his qualities,  
Things base and vile, holding no quantity,  
Love can transpose to form and dignity,  
Love looks not with the eyes, but with the mind;  
And therefore is winged Cupid painted blind.  
Nor hath Love's mind of any judgment taste;  
Wings, and no eyes, figure unheedy haste.  
And therefore is Love said to be a child,  
Because in choice he is so oft beguiled.  
As waggish boys in game themselves forswear,  
So the boy Love is perjured everywhere;  
For ere Demetrius looked on Hermia's eyne,  
He hailed down oaths that he was only mine;  
And when this hail some heat from Hermia felt,  
So he dissolved, and show'rs of oaths did melt. (I, i, 232-251)

Read the passage a second time, marking figurative language, sensory imagery, poetic devices, and any other patterns of diction and rhetoric, then answer the questions below.

- 1 *Helena.* How happy some o'er other some can be!
- 2 Through Athens I am thought as fair as she.
- 3 But what of that? Demetrius thinks not so;
- 4 He will not know what all but he do know.

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- 5 And as he errs, doting on Hermia's eyes,  
6 So I, admiring of his qualities.  
7 Things base and vile, holding no quantity,  
8 Love can transpose to form and dignity.  
9 Love looks not with the eyes, but with the mind;  
10 And therefore is winged Cupid painted blind.  
11 Nor hath Love's mind of any judgment taste;  
12 Wings, and no eyes, figure unheedy haste.  
  
13 And therefore is Love said to be a child,  
14 Because in choice he is so oft beguiled.  
15 As waggish boys in game themselves forswear,  
16 So the boy Love is perjured everywhere;  
17 For ere Demetrius looked on Hermia's eyne,  
18 He hailed down oaths that he was only mine;  
19 And when this hail some heat from Hermia felt,  
20 So he dissolved, and show'rs of oaths did melt.

- \_\_\_ 1. Line 9 contains an example of . . .  
a. metaphor      b. simile      c. personification      d. onomatopoeia
- \_\_\_ 2. The underlined word in Line 10 is an example of . . .  
a. allusion      b. metaphor      c. simile      d. personification
- \_\_\_ 3. Love is characterized in all of the following ways EXCEPT . . .  
a. blind      b. vile      c. immature      d. hasty