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grammar, style, and proofreading exercises

The Grammar Dog Guide to
Anthem
by Ayn Rand

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

About Gramwardog

Gramwardog 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 Gramwardog.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.

Gramwardog'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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ANTHEM by Ayn Rand – Grammar and Style
All exercises use sentences from the novel.

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SAMPLE EXERCISES *ANTHEM* by Ayn Rand

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

- ___ 1. We have broken the laws.
- ___ 2. We are alone here under the earth.
- ___ 3. We stole the candle from the larder of the Home of the Street Sweepers.

EXERCISE 6 PHRASES

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

par = participial *ger* = gerund *inf* = infinitive *appos* = appositive *prep* = prepositional

- ___ 1. There are few offenses blacker than to fight with our brothers, at any age and for any cause whatsoever.
- ___ 2. The Council of the Home told us so, and of all the children of that year, we were locked in the cellar most often.
- ___ 3. We, Equality 7-2521, were not happy in those years in the Home of the Students.

EXERCISE 9 STYLE: FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

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

p = personification *s* = simile *m* = metaphor

- ___ 1. And we looked straight into the eyes of the Council, but their eyes were as cold blue glass buttons.
- ___ 2. The sky is like a black sieve pierced by silver drops that tremble, ready to burst through.
- ___ 3. They are a tall, strong youth and their eyes are like fireflies, for there is laughter in their eyes.

SAMPLE EXERCISES *ANTHEM* by Ayn Rand

EXERCISE 12 **ALLUSIONS AND SYMBOLS**

Identify the type of allusion or symbol used in the following sentences. Label the underlined Words or phrases:

a. archetypal b. mythological c. religious d. government e. science/technology

- ___ 1. Then we sing hymns, the Hymn of Brotherhood, and the Hymn of Equality, and the Hymn of the Collective Spirit.

- ___ 2. We looked too long at the stars at night, and at the trees and the earth.

- ___ 3. We melt strange metals, and we mix acids, and we cut open the bodies of the animals which we find in the City Cesspool.

EXERCISE 14 **STYLE: LITERARY ANALYSIS – SELECTED PASSAGE 2**

Read the following passage the first time through for meaning.

The lash whistled like a singing wind. We tried to count the blows, but we lost count. We knew that the blows were falling upon our back. Only we felt nothing upon our back any longer. A flaming grill kept dancing before our eyes, and we thought of nothing save that grill, a grill, a grill of red squares, and then we knew that we were looking at the squares of the iron grill in the door, and there were also the squares of stone on the walls, and the squares which the lash was cutting upon our back, crossing and re-crossing itself in our flesh. Then we saw a fist before us. It knocked our chin up, and we saw the red froth of our mouth on the withered fingers, and the Judge asked:

“Where have you been?”

But we jerked our head away, hid our face upon our tied hands, and bit our lips.

The lash whistled again. We wondered who was sprinkling burning coal dust upon the floor, for we saw drops of red twinkling on the stones around us.

The we knew nothing, save two voices snarling steadily, one after the other, even though we knew they were speaking many minutes apart:

“Where have you been where have you been where have you been where have you been? . . . “

And our lips moved, but the sound trickled back into our throat, and the sound was only:

“The light . . . The light . . . The light . . .”

Then we knew nothing. (From Chapter VI)

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.

SAMPLE EXERCISES *ANTHEM* by Ayn Rand

1 The lash whistled like a singing wind. We tried to count the blows, but we lost count. We knew that the blows
2 were falling upon our back. Only we felt nothing upon our back any longer. A flaming grill kept dancing
3 before our eyes, and we thought of nothing save that grill, a grill, a grill of red squares, and then we knew
4 that we were looking at the squares of the iron grill in the door, and there were also the squares of stone on the
5 walls, and the squares which the lash was cutting upon our back, crossing and re-crossing itself in our flesh.
6 Then we saw a fist before us. It knocked our chin up, and we saw the red froth of our mouth on the withered
7 fingers, and the Judge asked:
8 “Where have you been?”
9 But we jerked our head away, hid our face upon our tied hands, and bit our lips.
10 The lash whistled again. We wondered who was sprinkling burning coal dust upon the floor, for we saw drops
11 of red twinkling on the stones around us.
12 Then we knew nothing, save two voices snarling steadily, one after the other, even though we knew they were
13 speaking many minutes apart:
14 “Where have you been where have you been where have you been where have you been? . . .”
15 And our lips moved, but the sound trickled back into our throat, and the sound was only:
16 “The light . . . The light . . . The light . . . “
17 Then we knew nothing.

- ___ 1. The passage contains examples of all of the following sensory imagery EXCEPT . . .
 a. sight and sound b. sound and touch c. taste and smell
- ___ 2. All of the following descriptions are parallel in meaning EXCEPT . . .
 a. *A flaming grill* (Line 2)
 b. *the red froth of our mouth* (Line 6)
 c. *burning coal dust upon the floor* (Line 10)
 d. *drops of red twinkling on the stones* (Line 10-11)
- ___ 3. All of the following descriptions are examples of personification EXCEPT . . .
 a. *The lash whistled* (Line 1)
 b. *A flaming grill kept dancing* (Line 2)
 c. *the sound trickled back into our throat* (Line 15)