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grammar, style, and proofreading exercises

**The Grammar dog Guide to
Emma
by Jane Austen**

**All exercises use sentences from the novel.
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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EMMA by Jane Austen – Grammar and Style
All exercises use sentences from the novel.

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SAMPLE EXERCISES - EMMA by Jane Austen

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. She was a great talker upon little matters, which exactly suited Mr. Woodhouse, full of trivial communications and harmless gossip.

- ___2. Harriet certainly was not clever, but she had a sweet, docile, grateful disposition; was totally free from conceit; and only desiring to be guided by any one she looked up to.

- ___3. “And ever since she was twelve, Emma has been mistress of the house and of you all.”

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. Highbury, the large and populous village almost amounting to a town, to which Hartfield, in spite of its separate lawn and shrubberies and name, did really belong, afforded her no equals.

- ___2. Emma turned away her head, divided between tears and smiles.

- ___3. Mrs. Bates, the widow of a former vicar of Highbury, was a very old lady, almost past every thing but tea and quadrille.

EXERCISE 9 STYLE: FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

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

p = personification

s = simile

m = metaphor

h = hyperbole

- ___1. His company so sought after, that every body says he need not eat a single meal by himself if he does not choose it; that he has more invitations than there are days in the week.

- ___2. One is sick of the very name of Jane Fairfax. Every letter from her is read forty times over.

- ___3. “And here are we, probably with rather thinner clothing than usual, setting forward voluntarily, without excuse, in defiance of the voice of nature, which tells man, in every thing given to his view or his feelings, to stay at home . . .”

SAMPLE EXERCISES - EMMA by Jane Austen

EXERCISE 12 STYLE: ALLUSIONS AND SYMBOLS

Identify the type of allusion or symbol in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:
a. money/income b. snobbery/social class c. courtship/ marriage d. literature e. illness

- ___1. “Mr. Weston is such a good-humoured, pleasant, excellent man that he thoroughly deserves a good wife.”
- ___2. But sometimes of an evening, before we went to cards, he would read something aloud out of the *Elegant Extracts* . . . and I know he has read *The Vicar of Wakefield*.
- ___3. “At Hartfield you have had very good specimens of well educated, well bred men.”

EXERCISE 13 STYLE: LITERARY ANALYSIS – SELECTED PASSAGE 1

Read the following passage the first time through for meaning.

“I have none of the usual inducements of women to marry. Were I to fall in love, indeed, it would be a different thing! but I never have been in love; it is not my way, or my nature; and I do not think I ever shall. And, without love, I am sure I should be a fool to change such a situation as mine. Fortune I do not want; employment I do not want; consequence I do not want: I believe few married women are half as much mistress of their husband’s house, as I am of Hartfield; and never, never could I expect to be so truly beloved and important; so always first and always right in any man’s eyes as I am in my father’s.”

“But then, to be an old maid at last, like Miss Bates!”

“That is as formidable an image as you could present, Harriet; and if I thought I should ever be like Miss Bates! so silly – so satisfied – so smiling – so prosing – so undistinguishing and unfastidious – and so apt to tell every thing relative to every body about me, I would marry tomorrow. But between us, I am convinced there never can be any likeness, except in being unmarried.”

“But still, you will be an old maid! and that’s so dreadful!”

“Never mind, Harriet, I shall not be a poor old maid; and it is poverty only which makes celibacy contemptible to a generous public! A single woman, with a very narrow income, must be a ridiculous, disagreeable, old maid! the proper sport of boys and girls; but a single woman, of good fortune, is always respectable, and may be as sensible and pleasant as any body else. And the distinction is not quite so much against the candour and common sense of the world as appears at first, for a very narrow income has a tendency to contract the mind, and sour the temper. Those who can barely live, and who live perforce in a very small, and generally very inferior, society, may well be illiberal and cross. “ (From Chapter 10)

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 “I have none of the usual inducements of women to marry. Were I to fall in love, indeed, it would be
- 2 a different thing! but I never have been in love; it is not my way, or my nature; and I do not think I
- 3 ever shall. And, without love, I am sure I should be a fool to change such a situation as mine.
- 4 Fortune I do not want; employment I do not want; consequence I do not want: I believe few married

5 women are half as much mistress of their husband's house, as I am of Hartfield; and never, never
6 could I expect to be so truly beloved and important; so always first and always right in any man's
7 eyes as I am in my father's."

8 "But then, to be an old maid at last, like Miss Bates!"

9 "That is as formidable an image as you could present, Harriet; and if I thought I should ever be like
10 Miss Bates! so silly – so satisfied – so smiling – so prosing – so undistinguishing and unfastidious –
11 and so apt to tell every thing relative to every body about me, I would marry tomorrow. But between
12 us, I am convinced there never can be any likeness, except in being unmarried."

13 "But still, you will be an old maid! and that's so dreadful!"

14 "Never mind, Harriet, I shall not be a poor old maid; and it is poverty only which makes celibacy
15 contemptible to a generous public! A single woman, with a very narrow income, must be a
16 ridiculous, disagreeable, old maid! the proper sport of boys and girls; but a single woman, of good
17 fortune, is always respectable, and may be as sensible and pleasant as any body else. And the
18 distinction is not quite so much against the candour and common sense of the world as appears at
19 first, for a very narrow income has a tendency to contract the mind, and sour the temper. Those
20 who can barely live, and who live perforce in a very small, and generally very inferior, society,
21 may well be illiberal and cross. "

- ___ 1. The underlined words in Line 3 are examples of . . .
a. assonance b. consonance c. alliteration d. rhyme
- ___ 2. The PREDOMINANT poetic devices in Line 10 are . . .
a. alliteration and repetition
b. consonance and rhyme
c. assonance and alliteration
d. alliteration and consonance
- ___ 3. ALL of the following words are part of the pattern of repetition EXCEPT . . .
a. fortune b. love c. never d. inferior