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grammar, style, and proofreading exercises

**The Grammar dog Guide to  
Great Expectations  
by Charles Dickens**

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

## About Grammartog

Grammartog 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 Grammartog.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.

Grammartog'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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**GREAT EXPECTATIONS by Charles Dickens – Grammar and Style**  
*All exercises use sentences from the novel*

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## SAMPLE EXERCISES - GREAT EXPECTATIONS by Charles Dickens

### 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      p.a. = predicate adjective  
o.p. = object of preposition

- \_\_\_ 1.      At such a time I found out for certain that this bleak place overgrown with nettles was the churchyard . . .
- \_\_\_ 2.      Joe's forge adjoined our house, which was a wooden house, as many of the dwellings in our country were – most of them, at that time.
- \_\_\_ 3.      Tickler was a wax-ended piece of cane, worn smooth by collision with my tickled frame.

### EXERCISE 6 PHRASES

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

par = participle      ger = gerund      infin = infinitive      appos = appositive      prep = preposition

- \_\_\_ 1.      My sister, Mrs. Joe, with black hair and eyes, had such a prevailing redness of skin that I sometimes used to wonder whether it was possible she washed herself with a nutmeg-grater instead of soap.
- \_\_\_ 2.      He held me by the collar and stared at me so that I began to think his first idea about cutting my throat had revived.
- \_\_\_ 3.      After receiving the charge with every mark of derision, the pupils formed in line and buzzingly passed a ragged book from hand to hand.

### EXERCISE 9 STYLE: FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

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

p = personification      s = simile      m = metaphor      o = onomatopoeia      h = hyperbole

- \_\_\_ 1.      “Tell me directly what you've been doing to wear me away with fret and fright and worrit, or I'd have you out of that corner if you was fifty Pips, and he was five hundred Gargerys.”
- \_\_\_ 2.      I had seen the damp lying on the outside of my little window, as if some goblin had been crying there all night, and using the window for a pocket-handkerchief.
- \_\_\_ 3.      Something clicked in his throat as if he had works in him like a clock, and was going to strike.

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**EXERCISE 12**

**STYLE: ALLUSIONS**

Identify the type of allusion used in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

a. historical    b. mythological    c. religious    d. literary    e. geographical    f. musical

- \_\_\_\_ 1.        He was a mild, good-natured, sweet-tempered, easy-going, foolish, dear fellow – a sort of Hercules in strength, and also in weakness.
  
- \_\_\_\_ 2.        It was Christmas Eve, and I had to stir the pudding for next day with a copper-stick, from seven to eight by the Dutch clock.
  
- \_\_\_\_ 3.        This was so much her normal state that Joe and I would often, for weeks together, be, as to our fingers, like monumental Crusaders as to their legs.

**EXERCISE 13**

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

Read the following passage the first time through for meaning. (From Chapter Five).

The something that I had noticed before clicked in the man's throat again, and he turned his back. The boat had returned, and his guard were ready, so we followed him to the landing-place made of rough stakes and stones, and saw him put into the boat, which was rowed by a crew of convicts like himself. No one seemed surprised to see him, or interested in seeing him, glad to see him, or sorry to see him, or spoke a word, except that somebody in the boat growled as if to dogs, "Give way, you!" which was the signal for the dip of the oars. By the light of the torches, we saw the black Hulk lying out a little way from the mud of the shore, like a wicked Noah's ark. Cribbed and barred and moored by massive rusty chains, the prison-ship seemed in my young eyes to be ironed like the prisoners. We saw the boat go alongside, and we saw him taken up the side and disappear. Then, the ends of the torches were flung hissing into the water, and went out, as if it were all over with him.

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    The something that I had noticed before clicked in the man's throat again, and he turned
- 2    his back. The boat had returned, and his guard were ready, so we followed him to the
- 3    landing-place made of rough stakes and stones and saw him put into the boat, which was
- 4    rowed by a crew of convicts like himself. No one seemed surprised to see him, or interested
- 5    in seeing him, glad to see him, or sorry to see him, or spoke a word, except that somebody in
- 6    the boat growled as if to dogs, "Give way, you!" which was the signal for the dip of the oars.
- 7    By the light of the torches, we saw the black Hulk lying out a little way from the mud of the
- 8    shore, like a wicked Noah's ark. Cribbed and barred and moored by massive rusty chains,

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- 9 the prison-ship seemed in my young eyes to be ironed like the prisoners. We saw the boat  
10 go alongside, and we saw him taken up the side and disappear. Then, the ends of the torches  
11 were flung hissing into the water, and went out, as if it were all over with him.

- \_\_\_ 1. Lines 1 and 11 contain examples of . . .  
a. metaphor      b. simile      c. personification      d. onomatopoeia
- \_\_\_ 2. The underlined words in Line 3 are examples of . . .  
a. assonance      b. consonance      c. alliteration
- \_\_\_ 3. Lines 4 and 5 contain an example of . . .  
a. parataxis      b. anaphora      c. polysyndeton