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grammar, style, and proofreading exercises

**The Grammar Dog Guide to
The Adventures of
Huckleberry Finn
by Mark Twain**

**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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THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN by Mark Twain – Grammar and Style

All exercises use sentences from the novel.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Exercise 1	--	Parts of Speech <i>25 multiple choice questions</i> 3
Exercise 2	--	Proofreading: Spelling, Capitalization, Punctuation <i>12 multiple choice questions</i> 5
Exercise 3	--	Proofreading: Spelling, Capitalization, Punctuation <i>12 multiple choice questions</i> 6
Exercise 4	--	Simple, Compound, and Complex Sentences <i>25 multiple choice questions</i> 7
Exercise 5	--	Complements <i>24 multiple choice questions on direct objects, predicate nominatives, predicate adjectives, indirect objects, and objects of prepositions</i> 9
Exercise 6	--	Phrases <i>25 multiple choice questions on prepositional, appositive, gerund, infinitive, and participial phrases</i> 11
Exercise 7	--	Verbals: Gerunds, Infinitives, and Participles <i>24 multiple choice questions</i> 13
Exercise 8	--	Clauses <i>25 multiple choice questions</i> 15
Exercise 9	--	Style: Figurative Language <i>24 multiple choice questions on metaphor, simile, personification, and onomatopoeia</i> 17

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Exercise 10	--	Style: Poetic Devices <i>25 multiple choice questions on assonance, consonance, alliteration, repetition, and rhyme</i> 19
Exercise 11	--	Style: Sensory Imagery <i>25 multiple choice questions</i> 21
Exercise 12	--	Style: Humor <i>25 multiple choice questions on hyperbole, colloquialisms, and malapropisms</i> 23
Exercise 13	--	Style: Literary Analysis – Selected Passage 1 <i>6 multiple choice questions</i> 25
Exercise 14	--	Style: Literary Analysis – Selected Passage 2 <i>6 multiple choice questions</i> 27
Exercise 15	--	Style: Literary Analysis – Selected Passage 3 <i>6 multiple choice questions</i> 29
Exercise 16	--	Style: Literary Analysis – Selected Passage 4 <i>6 multiple choice questions</i> 31
Answer Key	--	Answers to Exercises 1-16 33
Glossary	--	Definitions of Terms Used in Literary Analysis 35

SAMPLE EXERCISES - THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN by Mark Twain

EXERCISE 12 **STYLE: HUMOR**

Mark Twain embellished elements of farce, satire, and parody with other stylistic devices to create regional American humor. Identify the comedic devices in the following sentences. Label the underlined words or phrases:

hyperbole = h colloquialism = c malapropism = m

- _____ 1. After supper she got out her book and learned me about Moses and the Bulrushers, and I was in a sweat to find out all about him; but by and by she let it out that Moses had been dead a considerable long time; so then I didn't care no more about him, because I don't take no stock in dead people.

- _____ 2. "You fetch them to the cave, and you're always as polite as pie to them; and by and by they fall in love with you, and never want to go home any more."

- _____ 3. I didn't believe we could lick such a crowd of Spaniards and A-rabs, but I wanted to see the camels and elephants, so I was on hand next day, Saturday, in the ambuscade; and when we got the word we rushed out of the woods and down the hill.

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

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

He got to hanging around the widow's too much, and so she told him at last that if he didn't quit using around she would make trouble for him. Well, wasn't he mad? He said he would show who was Huck Finn's boss. So he watched out for me one day in the spring, and caught me, and took me up the river about three mile in a skiff, and crossed over to the Illinois shore where it was woody and there warn't no houses but an old log hut in a place where the timber was so thick you couldn't find it if you didn't know where it was.

He kept me with him all the time, and I never got a chance to run off. We lived in that old cabin, and he always locked the door and put the key under his head nights. He had a gun which he had stole, I reckon, and we fished and hunted, and that was what we lived on. Every little while he locked me in and went down to the store, three miles, to the ferry, and traded fish and game for whisky, and fetched it home and got drunk and had a good time, and licked me. The widow she found out where I was by and by, and she sent a man over to try to get hold of me; but pap drove him off with the gun, and it warn't long after that till I was used to being where I was, and liked it – all but the cowhide part.

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

- 1 He got to hanging around the widow's too much, and so she told him at last that if he didn't quit
- 2 using around she would make trouble for him. Well, *wasn't* he mad? He said he would show who was
- 3 Huck Finn's boss. So he watched out for me one day in the spring, and caught me, and took me up the
- 4 river about three mile in a skiff, and crossed over to the Illinois shore where it was woody and there

SAMPLE EXERCISES - *THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN* by Mark Twain

5 warn't no houses but an old log hut in a place where the timber was so thick you couldn't find it if you
6 didn't know where it was
7 He kept me with him all the time, and I never got a chance to run off. We lived in that old cabin,
8 and he always locked the door and put the key under his head nights. He had a gun which he had
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10 me in and went down to the store, three miles, to the ferry, and traded fish and game for whiskey, and
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12 I was by and by, and she sent a man over to try to get hold of me; but pap drove him off with the gun,
13 and it warn't long after that till I was used to being where I was, and liked it – all but the cowhide part.

- ___1. Lines 3 through 6 contain an example of . . .
 a. anaphora b. parataxis c. polysyndeton
- ___2. The action described in Lines 1 through 6 is contrasted by . . .
 a. the tone of the narrator
 b. the use of passive voice
 c. the use of sentence variety
- ___3. Using context clues, choose the closest meaning for the underlined
 words in Lines 1 and 2.
 a. if he didn't stop cursing
 b. if he didn't stop coming around
 c. if he didn't stop drinking