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grammar, style, and proofreading exercises

**The Grammar Dog Guide to  
The Tragedy of  
Julius Caesar  
by William Shakespeare**

**All exercises use sentences from the play.  
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 TRAGEDY OF JULIUS CAESAR** by William Shakespeare – Grammar and Style  
*All exercises use sentences from the play.*

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## SAMPLE EXERCISES - THE TRAGEDY OF JULIUS CAESAR

### 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. Beware the ides of March.
- \_\_\_ 2. Vexed I am of late with passions of some difference, conceptions only proper to myself, which give some soil, perhaps, to my behaviors . . .
- \_\_\_ 3. Calpurnia's cheek is pale, and Cicero looks with such ferret and such fiery eyes as we have seen him in the Capitol, being crossed in conference by some senators.

### 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. Go you down that way toward the Capitol; this way will I.
- \_\_\_ 2. The torrent roared, and we did buffet it with lusty sinews, throwing it aside and stemming it with hearts of controversy.
- \_\_\_ 3. I, as Aeneas, our great ancestor, did from the flames of Troy upon his shoulder the old Anchises bear, so from the waves of Tiber did I the tired Caesar.

### 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

#### ACT I

- \_\_\_ 1. And when you saw his chariot but appear, have you not made an universal shout, that Tiber trembled underneath her banks to hear the replication of your sounds made in her concave shores?
- \_\_\_ 2. This rudeness is a sauce to his good wit, which gives men stomach to digest his words with better appetite.
- \_\_\_ 3. Poor man, I know he would not be a wolf but that he sees the Romans are but sheep; he were no lion, were not Romans hinds.

**SAMPLE EXERCISES - THE TRAGEDY OF JULIUS CAESAR**

**EXERCISE 12      STYLE: ALLUSIONS, SYMBOLS, AND ANACHRONISMS**

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

*a. anachronism      b. mythology      c. literature      d. monarchy/royalty      e. superstition/omens*

**ACT I**

- \_\_\_1.      Forget not in your speed, Antonius, to touch Calpurnia; for our elders say the barren, touched in this holy chase, shake off their sterile curse.
- \_\_\_2.      I, as Aeneas, our great ancestor, did from the flames of Troy upon his shoulder the old Anchises bear, so from the waves of Tiber did I the tired Caesar.
- \_\_\_3.      I saw Mark Antony offer him a crown – yet ‘twas not a crown neither, ‘twas one of these coronets . . .

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

Read the following passage the first time through for meaning.

O pardon me, thou bleeding piece of earth,  
That I am meek and gentle with these butchers!  
Thou art the ruins of the noblest man  
That ever lived in the tide of times.  
Woe to the hand that shed this costly blood!  
Over thy wounds now do I prophesy  
(Which like dumb mouths do ope their ruby lips  
To beg the voice and utterance of my tongue),  
A curse shall light upon the limbs of men;  
Domestic fury and fierce civil strife  
Shall cumber all the parts of Italy;  
Blood and destruction shall be so in use,  
And dreadful objects so familiar,  
That mothers shall but smile when they behold  
Their infants quartered with the hands of war,  
All pity choked with custom of fell deeds;  
And Caesar’s spirit, ranging for revenge,  
With Ate by his side come hot from hell,  
Shall in these confines with a monarch’s voice  
Cry “Havoc,” and let slip the dogs of war,  
That this foul deed shall smell above the earth  
With carrion men, groaning for burial. (Act III, Scene i)

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 O pardon me, thou bleeding piece of earth,

**SAMPLE EXERCISES - THE TRAGEDY OF JULIUS CAESAR**

- 2 That I am meek and gentle with these butchers!
- 3 Thou art the ruins of the noblest man
- 4 That ever lived in the tide of times.
- 5 Woe to the hand that shed this costly blood!
- 6 Over thy wounds now do I prophesy
- 7 (Which like dumb mouths do ope their ruby lips
- 8 To beg the voice and utterance of my tongue),
- 9 A curse shall light upon the limbs of men;
- 10 Domestic fury and fierce civil strife
- 11 Shall cumber all the parts of Italy;
- 12 Blood and destruction shall be so in use,
- 13 And dreadful objects so familiar,
- 14 That mothers shall but smile when they behold
- 15 Their infants quartered with the hands of war,
- 16 All pity choked with custom of fell deeds;
- 17 And Caesar's spirit, ranging for revenge,
- 18 With Ate by his side come hot from hell,
- 19 Shall in these confines with a monarch's voice
- 20 Cry "Havoc," and let slip the dogs of war,
- 21 That this foul deed shall smell above the earth
- 22 With carrion men, groaning for burial.

- \_\_\_\_ 1. The underlined words in Line 4 are examples of . . .
- a. assonance and consonance
  - b. assonance and alliteration
  - c. consonance and alliteration
- \_\_\_\_ 2. Lines 7-8 contain an example of . . .
- a. metaphor
  - b. simile
  - c. personification
  - d. hyperbole
- \_\_\_\_ 3. Line 18 contains an example of . . .
- a. allusion
  - b. personification
  - c. metaphor
  - d. analogy