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grammar, style, and proofreading exercises

**The Grammar Dog Guide to
The Tragedy of
King Lear
by William Shakespeare**

**All exercises use sentences from the play.
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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THE TRAGEDY OF KING LEAR by William Shakespeare – Grammar and Style
All exercises use sentences from the play.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Exercise 1	--	Parts of Speech 20 multiple choice questions 3
Exercise 2	--	Proofreading: Spelling, Capitalization, Punctuation 12 multiple choice questions 5
Exercise 3	--	Proofreading: Spelling, Capitalization, Punctuation 12 multiple choice questions 6
Exercise 4	--	Simple, Compound, and Complex Sentences 20 multiple choice questions 7
Exercise 5	--	Complements 20 multiple choice questions on direct objects, predicate nominatives, predicate adjectives, indirect objects, and objects of prepositions 9
Exercise 6	--	Phrases 20 multiple choice questions on prepositional, appositive, gerund, infinitive, and participial phrases 11
Exercise 7	--	Verbals: Gerunds, Infinitives, and Participles 20 multiple choice questions 13
Exercise 8	--	Clauses 20 multiple choice questions 15

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Exercise 9 --	Style: Figurative Language 20 multiple choice questions on metaphor, simile, personification, onomatopoeia, and hyperbole 17
Exercise 10 --	Style: Poetic Devices 20 multiple choice questions on assonance, consonance, alliteration, repetition, and rhyme 19
Exercise 11 --	Style: Sensory Imagery 20 multiple choice questions 21
Exercise 12 --	Style: Allusions 20 multiple choice questions on history, mythology, literature, dementia/insanity, and folklore/superstition allusions 23
Exercise 13 --	Style: Literary Analysis – Selected Passage 1 6 multiple choice questions 25
Exercise 14 --	Style: Literary Analysis – Selected Passage 2 6 multiple choice questions 27
Exercise 15 --	Style: Literary Analysis – Selected Passage 3 6 multiple choice questions 29
Exercise 16 --	Style: Literary Analysis – Selected Passage 4 6 multiple choice questions 31
Answer Key -	Answers to Exercises 1-16 33
Glossary --	Definitions of Terms Used in Literary Analysis 35

SAMPLE EXERCISES - THE TRAGEDY OF KING LEAR by William Shakespeare

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. Thou, Nature, art my goddess; to thy law my services are bound.
- ___2. Found you no displeasure in him by word nor countenance?
- ___3. His knights grow riotous, and himself upbraids us on every trifle.

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. Goneril, our eldest-born, speak first.
- ___2. Beyond all manner of so much I love you.
- ___3. What says our second daughter, our dearest Regan, wife of Cornwall?

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. Then 'tis like the breath of an unfee'd lawyer – you gave me nothing for 't.
- ___2. . . . how sharper than a serpent's tooth it is to have a thankless child.

ACT II

- ___3. Thus out of season, threading dark-eyed night.

SAMPLE EXERCISES - THE TRAGEDY OF KING LEAR by William Shakespeare

EXERCISE 12 STYLE: ALLUSIONS AND SYMBOLS

Identify the allusions and symbols in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

a. history b. mythology c. literature d. dementia/insanity e. folklore/superstition

ACT I

- ____1. For, by the sacred radiance of the sun, the mysteries of Hecate and the night, by all the operation of the orbs from whom we do exist and cease to be . . .
- ____2. Peace, Kent! Come not between the dragon and his wrath.
- ____3. Then they for sudden joy did weep, and I for sorrow sung, that such a king should play bo-peep and go the fools among.

EXERCISE 13 STYLE: LITERARY ANALYSIS – SELECTED PASSAGE 1

Read the following passage the first time through for meaning.

Lear. I prithee, daughter, do not make me mad.
I will not trouble thee, my child; farewell.
We'll no more meet, no more see one another.
But yet thou art my flesh, my blood, my daughter;
Or rather a disease that's in my flesh,
Which I must needs call mine. Thou art a boil,
A plague-sore, or embossed carbuncle
In my corrupted blood. But I'll not chide thee.
Let shame come when it will, I do not call it.
I do not bid the thunder-bearer shoot,
Nor tell tales of thee to high-judging Jove.
Mend when thou canst, be better at thy leisure;
I can be patient, I can stay with Regan,
I and my hundred knights. (II, iv, 214-225)

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 *Lear.* I prithee, daughter, do not make me mad.
- 2 I will not trouble thee, my child; farewell.
- 3 We'll no more meet, no more see one another.
- 4 But yet thou art my flesh, my blood, my daughter;
- 5 Or rather a disease that's in my flesh,
- 6 Which I must needs call mine. Thou art a boil,

SAMPLE EXERCISES - THE TRAGEDY OF KING LEAR by William Shakespeare

7 A plague-sore, or embossed carbuncle

8 In my corrupted blood. But I'll not chide thee.

9 Let shame come when it will, I do not call it.

10 I do not bid the thunder-bearer shoot,

11 Nor tell tales of thee to high-judging Jove.

12 Mend when thou canst, be better at thy leisure;

13 I can be patient, I can stay with Regan,

14 I and my hundred knights.

___1. **Line 1 contains examples of . . .**
a. assonance b. consonance c. alliteration d. rhyme

___2. **Line 3 contains examples of . . .**
a. allusion and consonance
b. anaphora and assonance
c. allegory and rhyme
d. consonance and allusion

___3. **A shift in tone occurs in Line**
a. 2 b. 3 c. 4 d. 5