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grammar, style, and proofreading exercises

**The Grammar Dog Guide to
Lord Jim
by Joseph Conrad**

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

About Gramwardog

Gramwardog 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 Gramwardog.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.

Gramwardog'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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LORD JIM by Joseph Conrad – Grammar and Style
All exercises use sentences from the novel.

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SAMPLE EXERCISES - LORD JIM by Joseph Conrad

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. The danger, when not seen, has the imperfect vagueness of human thought.
- ___2. The only shadow on the sea was the shadow of the black smoke pouring heavily from the funnel its immense streamer, whose end was constantly dissolving in the air.
- ___3. The glance directed at him was not the fascinated stare of the others.

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. Imagination, the enemy of men, the father of all terrors, unstimulated, sinks to rest in the dullness of exhausted emotion.
- ___2. They told each other the story of their lives, played cards a little, or, yawning and in pyjamas, lounged through the day in easy-chairs without saying a word.
- ___3. An Arab, the leader of that pious voyage, came last.

EXERCISE 9 STYLE: FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

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

p = personification

s = simile

m = metaphor

o = onomatopoeia

h = hyperbole

- ___1. The *Patna* was a local steamer as old as the hills, lean like a greyhound, and eaten up with rust worse than a condemned water-tank.
- ___2. And far astern of the pilgrim ship a screw-pile lighthouse, planted by unbelievers on a treacherous shoal, seemed to wink at her its eye of flame, as if in derision of her errand of faith.
- ___3. The line dividing his meditations from a surreptitious doze on his feet was thinner than a thread in a spider's web.

SAMPLE EXERCISES - LORD JIM by Joseph Conrad

EXERCISE 12 STYLE: ALLUSIONS AND SYMBOLS

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

a. mythology b. religion c. literature d. Naturalism/fatalism e. folklore/superstition

- ___1. To the captain he is faithful like a friend and attentive like a son, with the patience of Job, the unselfish devotion of a woman, and the jollity of a boon companion.

- ___2. The Pacific is indeed big; but whether he found a place for a display of his talents in it or not, the fact remains he had flown into space like a witch on a broomstick.

- ___3. He had passed these days on the verandah, buried in a long chair, and coming out of his place of sepulture only at mealtimes or late at night, when he wandered on the quays all by himself, detached from his surroundings, irresolute and silent, like a ghost without a home to haunt.

EXERCISE 13 STYLE: LITERARY ANALYSIS – SELECTED PASSAGE 1

Read the following passage the first time through for meaning.

His station was in the fore-top, and often from there he looked down, with the contempt of a man destined to shine in the midst of dangers, at the peaceful multitude of roofs cut in two by the brown tide of the stream, while scattered on the outskirts of the surrounding plain the factory chimneys rose perpendicular against a grimy sky, each slender like a pencil, and belching out smoke like a volcano. He could see the big ships departing, the broad-beamed ferries constantly on the move, the little boats floating far below his feet, with the hazy splendour of the sea in the distance, and the hope of a stirring life in the world of adventure. On the lower deck in the babel of two hundred voices he would forget himself, and beforehand live in his mind the sea-life of light literature. He saw himself saving people from sinking ships, cutting away masts in a hurricane, swimming through a surf with a line; or as a lonely castaway, barefooted and half naked, walking on uncovered reefs in search of shellfish to stave off starvation. He confronted savages on tropical shores, quelled mutinies on the high seas, and in a small boat upon the ocean kept up the hearts of despairing men – always an example of devotion to duty, and as unflinching as a hero in a book. “Something’s up. Come along.”

He leaped to his feet. The boys were streaming up the ladders. Above could be heard a great scurrying about and shouting, and when he got through the hatchway he stood still – as if confounded. (Chapter 1)

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 His station was in the fore-top, and often from there he looked down, with the contempt of a man
- 2 destined to shine in the midst of dangers, at the peaceful multitude of roofs cut in two by the brown tide
- 3 of the stream, while scattered on the outskirts of the surrounding plain the factory chimneys rose
- 4 perpendicular against a grimy sky, each slender like a pencil, and belching out smoke like a volcano. He

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5 could see the big ships departing, the broad-beamed ferries constantly on the move, the little boats
6 floating far below his feet, with the hazy splendour of the sea in the distance, and the hope of a stirring
7 life in the world of adventure.
8 On the lower deck in the babel of two hundred voices he would forget himself, and beforehand live in his
9 mind the sea-life of light literature. He saw himself saving people from sinking ships, cutting away masts
10 in a hurricane, swimming through a surf with a line; or as a lonely castaway, barefooted and half naked,
11 walking on uncovered reefs in search of shellfish to stave off starvation. He confronted savages on
12 tropical shores, quelled mutinies on the high seas, and in a small boat upon the ocean kept up the hearts
13 of despairing men – always an example of devotion to duty, and as unflinching as a hero in a book.
14 “Something’s up. Come along.”
15 He leaped to his feet. The boys were streaming up the ladders. Above could be heard a great scurrying
16 about and shouting, and when he got through the hatchway he stood still – as if confounded.

- ___ 1. The underlined words in Lines 4 and 15 are examples of . . .
a. assonance b. consonance c. alliteration d. rhyme
- ___ 2. Line 4 contains two examples of . . .
a. metaphor b. simile c. personification d. hyperbole
- ___ 3. ALL of the following descriptions are parallel in meaning EXCEPT . . .
a. *He could see the big ships departing* (Lines 4-5)
b. *the hope of a stirring life in the world of adventure* (Lines 6-7)
c. *He saw himself saving people from sinking ships* (Line 9)
d. *as unflinching as a hero in a book* (Line 13)