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grammar, style, and proofreading exercises

**The Grammar Dog Guide to
The Tragedy of
Othello
by William Shakespeare**

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

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SAMPLE EXERCISES - THE TRAGEDY OF OTHELLO 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. It is too true an evil. Gone she is.
- ___2. I lack iniquity sometime to do me service.
- ___3. Rude am I in my speech, and little blessed with the soft phrase of peace, for since these arms of mine had seven years' pith till now some nine moons wasted, they have used their dearest action in the tented field.

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. Forsooth, a great arithmetician, one Michael Cassio, a Florentine, (a fellow almost damned in a fair wife) that never set a squadron in the field . . .
- ___2. The Ottomites, reverend and gracious, steering with due course toward the isle of Rhodes, have there injoined them with an after fleet.
- ___3. I have charged thee not to haunt about my doors.

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

ACT I

- ___1. . . . 'tis not long after but I will wear my heart upon my sleeve for daws to peck at . . .
- ___2. . . . rough quarries, rocks, and hills whose heads touch heaven, it was my hint to speak.
- ___3. The tyrant Custom, most grave senators, hath made the flinty and steel couch of war my thrice-driven bed of down.

SAMPLE EXERCISES - THE TRAGEDY OF OTHELLO by William Shakespeare

EXERCISE 12 STYLE: ALLUSIONS

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

a. history b. mythology c. religion d. folklore/superstition

ACT I

- ___1. . . . thou hast enchanted her! For I'll refer me to all things of sense, if she in chains of magic were not bound . . .
- ___2. . . . thou hast practiced with foul charms, abused her delicate youth with drugs or minerals that weaken motion.
- ___3. Yet, by your gracious patience, I will a round unvarnished tale deliver of my whole course of love – what drugs, what charms, what conjunction, and what mighty magic.

EXERCISE 13 STYLE: LITERARY ANALYSIS – SELECTED PASSAGE 1

Read the following passage the first time through for meaning.

Roderigo. I do follow here in the chase, not like a hound that hunts, but one that fills up the cry. My money is almost spent; I have been tonight exceedingly well cudgeled; and I think the issue will be, I shall have so much experience for my pains; and so, with no money at all, and a little more wit, return again to Venice.

Iago. How poor are they that have not patience! What wound did ever heal but by degrees? Thou know'st we work by wit, and not by witchcraft; And wit depends on dilatory time. Does't not go well? Cassio hath beaten thee, And thou by that small hurt hath cashiered Cassio. Though other things grow fair against the sun, Yet fruits that blossom first will first be ripe. Content thyself awhile. By the mass, 'tis morning! Pleasure and action make the hours seem short. Retire thee; go where thou art billeted. Away, I say! Thou shalt know more hereafter. Nay, get thee gone! (II, iii, 363-382)

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 *Roderigo.* I do follow here in the chase, not like a
- 2 hound that hunts, but one that fills up the cry. My

SAMPLE EXERCISES - THE TRAGEDY OF OTHELLO by William Shakespeare

3 money is almost spent; I have been tonight exceedingly

4 well cudgeled; and I think the issue will be,

5 I shall have so much experience for my pains; and so,

6 with no money at all, and a little more wit, return

7 again to Venice.

8 *Iago*. How poor are they that have not patience!

9 What wound did ever heal but by degrees?

10 Thou know'st we work by wit, and not by witchcraft;

11 And wit depends on dilatory time.

12 Does't not go well? Cassio hath beaten thee,

13 And thou by that small hurt hath cashiered Cassio.

14 Though other things grow fair against the sun,

15 Yet fruits that blossom first will first be ripe.

16 Content thyself awhile. By the mass, 'tis morning!

17 Pleasure and action make the hours seem short.

18 Retire thee; go where thou art billeted.

19 Away, I say! Thou shalt know more hereafter.

20 Nay, get thee gone!

- ___ 1. Lines 1 and 2 contain an example of . . .
a. metaphor b. simile c. personification d. hyperbole
- ___ 2. The underlined words in Line 8 are an example of . . .
a. assonance b. consonance c. alliteration d. rhyme
- ___ 3. The word *cashiered* in Line 13 most likely means ALL of the following EXCEPT . . .
a. rejected b. discarded c. disliked d. dismissed