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grammar, style, and proofreading exercises

The Grammar Dog Guide to Pride and Prejudice

by Jane Austen

**All exercises use sentences from the novel.
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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PRIDE AND PREJUDICE by Jane Austen – Grammar and Style
All exercises use sentences from the novel.

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SAMPLE EXERCISES - PRIDE AND PREJUDICE by Jane Austen

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. Mr. Bennet was so odd a mixture of quick parts, sarcastic humour, reserve, and caprice, that the experience of three and twenty years had been insufficient to make his wife understand his character.
- ___2. On the strength of Darcy's regard Bingley had the firmest reliance, and of his judgment the highest opinion.
- ___3. Bingley was by no means deficient, but Darcy was clever.

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. Mr. Bennet protested against any description of finery.
- ___2. "I was very much flattered by his asking me to dance a second time."
- ___3. Mr. Bingley inherited property to the amount of nearly a hundred thousand pounds from his father, who had intended to purchase an estate, but did not live to do it.

EXERCISE 9 STYLE: FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

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

p = personification

s = simile

m = metaphor

h = hyperbole

- ___1. . . . and the agreeable manner in which he immediately fell into conversation, though it was only on its being a wet night, and on the probability of a rainy season, made her feel that the commonest, dullest, most threadbare topic might be rendered interesting by the skill of the speaker.
- ___2. "The world is blinded by his fortune and consequence, or frightened by his high and imposing manners, and sees him only as he chooses to be seen."
- ___3. ". . . I can never be in company with this Mr. Darcy without being grieved to the soul by a thousand tender recollections."

SAMPLE EXERCISES - PRIDE AND PREJUDICE by Jane Austen

EXERCISE 12 STYLE: ALLUSIONS AND SYMBOLS

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

a. manners/customs b. snobbery/social class c. courtship/ marriage

- ___1. It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife.

- ___2. . . . he had made a tolerable fortune and risen to the honour of knighthood by an address to the King, during his mayoralty.

- ___3. “A lady’s imagination is very rapid; it jumps from admiration to love, from love to matrimony in a moment.”

EXERCISE 13 STYLE: LITERARY ANALYSIS – SELECTED PASSGE 1

Read the following passage the first time through for meaning.

“How strange!” cried Elizabeth. “How abominable! I wonder that the very pride of this Mr. Darcy has not made him just to you! If from no better motive, that he should not have been too proud to be dishonest – for dishonesty I must call it.”

“It is wonderful,” replied Wickham, “for almost all his actions may be traced to pride; and pride has often been his best friend. It has connected him nearer with virtue than with any other feeling. But we are none of us consistent, and in his behaviour to me, there were stronger impulses even than pride.”

“Can such abominable pride as his, have ever done him good?”

“Yes. It has often led him to be liberal and generous, to give his money freely, to display hospitality, to assist his tenants, and relieve the poor. Family pride, and filial pride, for he is very proud of what his father was, have done this. Not to appear to disgrace his family, to degenerate from the popular qualities, or lose the influence of the Pemberly House, is a powerful motive. He has also brotherly pride, which with some brotherly affection, makes him a very kind and careful guardian of his sister; and you will hear him generally cried up as the most attentive and best of brothers.” (From Chapter XVI)

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 How strange!” cried Elizabeth. “How abominable! I wonder that the very pride of this Mr. Darcy has
- 2 not made him just to you! If from no better motive, that he should not have been too proud to be dishonest –
- 3 for dishonesty I must call it.”
- 4 “It is wonderful,” replied Wickham, “for almost all his actions may be traced to pride; and pride has often
- 5 been his best friend. It has connected him nearer with virtue than with any other feeling. But we are none
- 6 of us consistent, and in his behaviour to me, there were stronger impulses even than pride.”
- 7 “Can such abominable pride as his, have ever done him good?”
- 8 “Yes. It has often led him to be liberal and generous, to give his money freely, to display hospitality, to

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9 assist his tenants, and relieve the poor. Family pride, and filial pride, for he is very proud of what his father
10 was, have done this. Not to appear to disgrace his family, to degenerate from the popular qualities, or lose
11 the influence of the Pemberly House, is a powerful motive. He has also brotherly pride, which with some
12 brotherly affection, makes him a very kind and careful guardian of his sister; and you will hear him
13 generally cried up as the most attentive and best of brothers.”

- ___1. **Lines 4 and 5 contain an example of . . .**
 a. metaphor b. simile c. personification d. analogy
- ___2. **ALL of the following descriptions are PARALLEL in tone EXCEPT . . .**
 a. “How abominable!” (Line 1)
 b. to give his money freely, to display hospitality (Line 8)
 c. to assist his tenants, and relieve the poor (Lines 8-9)
 d. a very kind and careful guardian of his sister (Line 12)
- ___3. **ALL of the following inferences and motives regarding Mr. Darcy’s**
 behavior are contained in the passage EXCEPT . . .
 a. He modeled his actions after his father’s behavior.
 b. He performed good deeds for political reasons.
 c. He possessed a dual personality.
 d. His virtuous behavior was not genuine.