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grammar, style, and proofreading exercises

**The Grammar Dog Guide to  
The Tragedy of  
Richard III  
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 RICHARD III* by William Shakespeare – Grammar and Style  
*All exercises use sentences from the play.*

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**SAMPLE EXERCISES - THE TRAGEDY OF RICHARD III** 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.        **Plots have I laid, inductions dangerous, by drunken prophecies, libels, and dreams, to set my brother Clarence and the King in deadly hate the one against the other.**
- \_\_\_2.        **The jealous o'erworn widow and herself, since that our brother dubbed them gentlewomen, are mighty gossips in our monarchy.**
- \_\_\_3.        **Well, your imprisonment shall not be long; I will deliver you, or else lie for you.**

**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.        **But I shall live, my lord, to give them thanks that were the cause of my imprisonment.**
- \_\_\_2.        **Thou bloodless remnant of that royal blood, be it lawful that I invoke thy ghost to hear the lamentations of poor Anne, wife to thy Edward, to thy slaughtered son, stabbed by the selfsame hand that made these wounds!**
- \_\_\_3.        **But first I'll turn yon fellow in his grave, and then return lamenting to my love.**

**EXERCISE 9            STYLE: FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE**

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

*p* = personification

*s* = simile

*m* = metaphor

*h* = hyperbole

**ACT I**

- \_\_\_1.        **... when thy warlike father, like a child, told the sad story of my father's death and twenty times made pause to sob and weep, that all the standers-by had wet their cheeks like trees bedashed with rain.**
- \_\_\_2.        **I would to God my heart were flint, like Edward's, or Edward's soft and pitiful, like mine.**
- \_\_\_3.        **The worm of conscience still begnaw thy soul!**

**SAMPLE EXERCISES - THE TRAGEDY OF RICHARD III** 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. religion      d. animal imagery      e. folklore/superstition*

**ACT I**

- \_\_\_1.      More pity that the eagles should be mewed, whiles kites and buzzards prey at liberty.
- \_\_\_2.      What black magician conjures up this fiend to stop devoted charitable deeds?
- \_\_\_3.      Why strew'st thou sugar on that bottled spider, whose deadly web ensnareth thee about?

**EXERCISE 13      STYLE: LITERARY ANALYSIS – SELECTED PASSAGE 1**

Read the following passage the first time through for meaning.

*Richard.* Now is the winter of our discontent  
Made glorious summer by this sun of York,  
And all the clouds that loured upon our house  
In the deep bosom of the ocean buried.  
Now are our brows bound with victorious wreaths.  
Our bruised arms hung up for monuments,  
Our stern alarums changed to merry meetings,  
Our dreadful marches to delightful measures.  
Grim-visaged War hath smoothed his wrinkled front;  
And now, instead of mounting barbed steeds  
To fright the souls of fearful adversaries,  
He capers nimbly in a lady's chamber  
To the lascivious pleasing of a lute.  
But I, that am not shaped for sportive tricks,  
Nor made to court an amorous looking glass;  
I, that am rudely stamped, and want love's majesty  
To strut before a wanton ambling nymph;  
I, that am curtailed of this fair proportion,  
Cheated of feature by dissembling Nature,  
Deformed, unfinished, sent before my time  
Into this breathing world scarce half made up,

And that so lamely and unfashionable  
That dogs bark at me as I halt by them --  
Why, I, in this weak piping time of peace,  
Have no delight to pass away the time,  
Unless to see my shadow in the sun  
And descant on mine own deformity.  
And therefore, since I cannot prove a lover  
To entertain these fair well-spoken days,  
I am determined to prove a villain  
And hate the idle pleasures of these days.  
Plots have I laid, inductions dangerous,  
By drunken prophecies, libels, and dreams,  
To set my brother Clarence and the King  
In deadly hate the one against the other;  
And if King Edward be as true and just  
As I am subtle, false, and treacherous,  
This day should Clarence closely be mewed up  
About a prophecy, which says that G  
Of Edward's heirs the murderer shall be.  
Dive, thoughts, down to my soul; here Clarence comes.  
(I, i, 1-41)

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 *Richard.* Now is the winter of our discontent
- 2 Made glorious summer by this sun of York,

- 22 And that so lamely and unfashionable
- 23 That dogs bark at me as I halt by them --

**SAMPLE EXERCISES - THE TRAGEDY OF RICHARD III by William Shakespeare**

3 And all the clouds that loured upon our house  
4 In the deep bosom of the ocean buried.  
5 Now are our brows bound with victorious wreaths.  
6 Our bruised arms hung up for monuments,  
7 Our stern alarums changed to merry meetings,  
8 Our dreadful marches to delightful measures.  
9 Grim-visaged War hath smoothed his wrinkled front;  
10 And now, instead of mounting barbed steeds  
11 To fright the souls of fearful adversaries,  
12 He capers nimbly in a lady's chamber  
13 To the lascivious pleasing of a lute.  
14 But I, that am not shaped for sportive tricks,  
15 Nor made to court an amorous looking glass;  
16 I, that am rudely stamped, and want love's majesty  
17 To strut before a wanton ambling nymph;  
18 I, that am curtailed of this fair proportion,  
19 Cheated of feature by dissembling Nature,  
20 Deformed, unfinished, sent before my time  
21 Into this breathing world scarce half made up,  
24 Why, I, in this weak piping time of peace,  
25 Have no delight to pass away the time,  
26 Unless to see my shadow in the sun  
27 And descant on mine own deformity.  
28 And therefore, since I cannot prove a lover  
29 To entertain these fair well-spoken days,  
30 I am determined to prove a villain  
31 And hate the idle pleasures of these days.  
32 Plots have I laid, inductions dangerous,  
33 By drunken prophecies, libels, and dreams,  
34 To set my brother Clarence and the King  
35 In deadly hate the one against the other;  
36 And if King Edward be as true and just  
37 As I am subtle, false, and treacherous,  
38 This day should Clarence closely be mew'd up  
39 About a prophecy, which says that G  
40 Of Edward's heirs the murderer shall be.  
41 Dive, thoughts, down to my soul; here Clarence comes.

- \_\_\_ 1. Line 9 contains an example of . . .  
a. metaphor b. simile c. personification d. hyperbole
- \_\_\_ 2. A shift takes place in Line . . .  
a. 3 b. 15 c. 35. d. 41
- \_\_\_ 3. The word *Our* in Lines 6, 7, and 8 is an example of . . .  
a. anaphora b. allegory c. antiphrasis d. asyndeton