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grammar, style, and proofreading exercises

**The Grammar dog Guide to
Rikki-Tikki-Tavi
by Rudyard Kipling**

**All exercises use sentences from the story.
Includes over 240 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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RIKKI-TIKKI-TAVI by Rudyard Kipling – Grammar and Style
All exercises use sentences from the story

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SAMPLE EXERCISE - RIKKI-TIKKI-TAVI by Rudyard Kipling

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 p.a. = predicate adjective
o.p. = object of preposition

- ___ 1. He was a mongoose, rather like a little cat in his fur and his tail, but quite like a weasel in his head and habits.

- ___ 2. He found a little wisp of grass floating there, and clung to it till he lost his senses.

- ___ 3. When he revived, he was lying in the sun on the middle of a garden path, very dragged indeed, and a small boy was saying: "Here's a dead mongoose."

EXERCISE 6 PHRASES

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

par = participle ger = gerund inf = infinitive appos = appositive prep = preposition

- ___ 1. This is the story of the great war that Rikki-Tikki-Tavi fought single-handed, through the bathrooms of the big bungalow in Segowlee cantonment.

- ___ 2. Darzee, the tailor-bird, helped him, and Chuchundra, the muskrat, who never comes out into the middle of the floor, but always creeps round by the wall, gave him advice; but Rikki-Tikki did the real fighting.

- ___ 3. They took him into the house, and a big man picked him up between his finger and thumb, and said he was not dead but half choked.

EXERCISE 9 STYLE: FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

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

p = personification m = metaphor s = simile o = onomatopoeia

- ___ 1. Hear what little Red-Eye saith: "Nag, come up and dance with death!"

- ___ 2. He could fluff up his tail till it looked like a bottle brush, and his war cry, as he scuttled through the long grass, was: "Rikk-tikk-tikk-tikk-tchk!"

- ___ 3. Darzee and his wife only covered down in the nest answering, for from the thick grass at the foot of the bush there came a low hiss.

SAMPLE EXERCISE - RIKKI-TIKKI-TAVI by Rudyard Kipling

EXERCISE 12

STYLE: ALLUSIONS AND SYMBOLS

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

a. civilization b. religion c. war/combat d. life/survival e. death

- ___1. This is the story of the great war that Rikki-Tikki-Tavi fought single-handed, through the bathrooms of the big bungalow in Segowlee cantonment.
- ___2. He could fluff up his tail till it looked like a bottle brush, and his war cry, as he scuttled through the long grass, was: “Rikk-tikk-tikk-tikki-tchk!”
- ___3. “Here’s a dead mongoose. Let’s have a funeral.”

EXERCISE 13

STYLE: LITERARY ANALYSIS – SELECTED PASSAGE 1

Read the following passage the first time through for meaning.

They gave him a little piece of raw meat. Rikki-Tikki liked it immensely, and when it was finished he went out into the verandah and sat in the sunshine and fluffed up his fur to make it dry to the roots. Then he felt better.

“There are more things to find out about in this house,” he said to himself, “than all my family could find out in all their lives. I shall certainly stay and find out.”

He spent all that day roaming over the house. He nearly drowned himself in the bathtubs, put his nose into the ink on a writing table, and burnt it on the end of the big man’s cigar, for he climbed up in the big man’s lap to see how writing was done. At nightfall he ran into Teddy’s nursery to watch how kerosene lamps were lighted, and when Teddy went to bed Rikki-Tikki climbed up too; but he was a restless companion, because he had to get up and attend to every noise all through the night, and find out what made it. Teddy’s mother and father came in, the last thing, to look at their boy, and Rikki-Tikki was awake on the pillow. “I don’t like that,” said Teddy’s mother; “he may bite the child.” “He’ll do no such thing,” said the father. “Teddy’s safer with that little beast than if he had a bloodhound to watch him.”

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 They gave him a little piece of raw meat. Rikki-Tikki liked it immensely, and when it was finished
- 2 he went out into the verandah and sat in the sunshine and fluffed up his fur to make it dry to the
- 3 roots. Then he felt better.
- 4 “There are more things to find out about in this house,” he said to himself, “than all my family
- 5 could find out in all their lives. I shall certainly stay and find out.”
- 6 He spent all that day roaming over the house. He nearly drowned himself in the bathtubs, put

7 his nose into the ink on a writing table, and burnt it on the end of the big man's cigar, for he
8 climbed up in the big man's lap to see how writing was done. At nightfall he ran into Teddy's
9 nursery to watch how kerosene lamps were lighted, and when Teddy went to bed Rikki-Tikki
10 climbed up too; but he was a restless companion, because he had to get up and attend to every
11 noise all through the night, and find out what made it. Teddy's mother and father came in,
12 the last thing, to look at their boy, and Rikki-Tikki was awake on the pillow. "I don't like
13 that," said Teddy's mother; "he may bite the child." "He'll do no such thing," said the father.
14 "Teddy's safer with that little beast than if he had a bloodhound to watch him."

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EXERCISE 13 STYLE: LITERARY ANALYSIS – SELECTED PASSAGE 1

- ___1. **Line 2 contains ALL of the following poetic devices EXCEPT . . .**
a. assonance b. consonance c. alliteration d. rhyme
- ___2. **ALL of the following words are part of the pattern of repetition EXCEPT . . .**
a. find out b. climbed up c. watch d. mother
- ___3. **ALL of the following descriptions are parallel in function EXCEPT . . .**
a. *There are more things to find out about this house (Line 4)*
b. *He spent all that day roaming over the house. (Line 6)*
c. *Teddy's safer with that little beast (Line 14)*
d. *he was a restless companion (Line 10)*