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grammar, style, and proofreading exercises

**The Grammar dog Guide to  
Sense and Sensibility  
by Jane Austen**

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

## About Grammartog

Grammartog 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 Grammartog.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.

Grammartog'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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*SENSE AND SENSIBILITY* by Jane Austen – Grammar and Style  
*All exercises use sentences from the novel.*

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## SAMPLE EXERCISES - SENSE AND SENSIBILITY 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. Marianne's abilities were, in many respects, quite equal to Elinor's.
- \_\_\_2. An annuity is a very serious business; it comes over and over every year, and there is no getting rid of it.
- \_\_\_3. He distrusts his own judgment in such matters so much, that he is always unwilling to give his opinion on any picture.

### 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. Margaret, the other sister, was a good-humoured, well-disposed girl.
- \_\_\_2. Lady Middleton had sent a very civil message by him, denoting her intention of waiting on Mrs. Dashwood as soon as she could be assured that her visit would be no inconvenience.
- \_\_\_3. Colonel Brandon, the friend of Sir John, seemed no more adapted by resemblance of manner to be his friend than Lady Middleton was to be his wife, or Mrs. Jennings to be Lady Middleton's mother.

### 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. The high downs, which invited them from almost every window of the cottage to seek the exquisite enjoyment of air on their summits, were a happy alternative when the dirt of the valleys beneath shut up their superior beauties.
- \_\_\_2. But Marianne could no more satisfy him as to the colour of Mr. Willoughby's pointer than he could describe to her the shades of his mind.
- \_\_\_3. She could not deny herself the comfort of endeavouring to convince Lucy that her heart was unwounded.

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**EXERCISE 12      STYLE: ALLUSIONS AND SYMBOLS**

Identify the type of allusion or symbol in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:  
*a. money/income   b. snobbery/social class   c. courtship/ marriage   d. literature   e. illness*

- \_\_\_1.      Mrs. Jennings had been anxious to see Colonel Brandon well married ever since her connection with Sir John first brought him to her knowledge; and she was always anxious to get a good husband for every pretty girl.
- \_\_\_2.      “Did not you hear him complain of the rheumatism? and is not that the commonest infirmity of declining life?”
- \_\_\_3.      “You know what he thinks of Cowper and Scott; you are certain of his estimating their beauties as he ought, and you have received every assurance of his admiring Pope no more than is proper.”

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

Read the following passage the first time through for meaning.

The whole country about them abounded in beautiful walks. The high downs, which invited them from almost every window of the cottage to seek the exquisite enjoyment of air on their summits, were a happy alternative when the dirt of the valleys beneath shut up their superior beauties; and towards one of these hills did Marianne and Margaret one memorable morning direct their steps, attracted by the partial sunshine of a showery sky, and unable longer to bear the confinement which the settled rain of the two preceding days had occasioned. The weather was not tempting enough to draw the two others from their pencil and their book, in spite of Marianne’s declaration that the day would be lastingly fair, and that every threatening cloud would be drawn off from their hills; and the two girls set off together.

They gaily ascended the downs, rejoicing in their own penetration at every glimpse of blue sky: and when they caught in their faces the animating gales of an high southwesterly wind, they pitied the fears which had prevented their mother and Elinor from sharing such delightful sensations. “Is there a felicity in the world,” said Marianne, “superior to this? Margaret, we will walk here at least two hours.”

Margaret agreed, and they pursued their way against the wind, resisting it with laughing delight for about twenty minutes longer, when suddenly the clouds united over their heads, and a driving rain set full in their faces. Chagrined and surprised, they were obliged, though unwillingly, to turn back, for no shelter was nearer than their own house. One consolation, however, remained for them, to which the exigence of the moment gave more than usual propriety; it was that of running with all possible speed down the steep side of the hill which led immediately to their garden gate. (From Chapter 9)

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 The whole country about them abounded in beautiful walks. The high downs, which invited them
- 2 from almost every window of the cottage to seek the exquisite enjoyment of air on their summits,

**SAMPLE EXERCISES - *SENSE AND SENSIBILITY* by Jane Austen**

3 were a happy alternative when the dirt of the valleys beneath shut up their superior beauties;  
4 and towards one of these hills did Marianne and Margaret one memorable morning direct their  
5 steps, attracted by the partial sunshine of a showery sky, and unable longer to bear the confinement  
6 which the settled rain of the two preceding days had occasioned. The weather was not tempting  
7 enough to draw the two others from their pencil and their book, in spite of Marianne's declaration  
8 that the day would be lastingly fair, and that every threatening cloud would be drawn off from  
9 their hills; and the two girls set off together.

10 They gaily ascended the downs, rejoicing in their own penetration at every glimpse of blue sky:  
11 and when they caught in their faces the animating gales of an high southwesterly wind, they pitied  
12 the fears which had prevented their mother and Elinor from sharing such delightful sensations.  
13 "Is there a felicity in the world," said Marianne, "superior to this? Margaret, we will walk here  
14 at least two hours."

15 Margaret agreed, and they pursued their way against the wind, resisting it with laughing delight  
16 for about twenty minutes longer, when suddenly the clouds united over their heads, and a driving  
17 rain set full in their faces. Chagrined and surprised, they were obliged, though unwillingly, to  
18 turn back, for no shelter was nearer than their own house. One consolation, however, remained  
19 for them, to which the exigence of the moment gave more than usual propriety; it was that of  
20 running with all possible speed down the steep side of the hill which led immediately to their  
21 garden gate.

- \_\_\_ 1. Lines 1-2 contain an example of . . .  
a. metaphor   b. simile   c. personification   d. hyperbole
- \_\_\_ 2. The PREDOMINANT poetic device in Line 4 is . . .  
a. assonance   b. consonance   c. rhyme   d. alliteration
- \_\_\_ 3. The author's descriptions of nature are characteristic of . . .  
a. Naturalism   b. Realism   c. Romanticism   d. Classicism