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grammar, style, and proofreading exercises

**The Grammar Dog Guide to
The Last of the
Mohicans
by James Fenimore Cooper**

**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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THE LAST OF THE MOHICANS by James Fenimore Cooper – Grammar and Style
All exercises use sentences from the novel.

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THE LAST OF THE MOHICANS SAMPLE EXERCISES

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. “They came in a large canoe, when my fathers had buried the tomahawk with the redmen around them.”

- ___ 2. The white man loosened his knife in his leathern sheath, and made an involuntary movement of the hand towards his rifle, at this sudden interruption.

- ___ 3. “Munro has promised you a gift for your services when performed, and I shall be your debtor for another.”

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. “I must leave the buck to your arrow, Uncas, or we kill a deer for them thieves, the Iroquois, to eat.”

- ___ 2. The horses had been secured to some scattered shrubs that grew in the fissures of the rocks, where, standing in the water, they were left to pass the night.

- ___ 3. “An Indian is a mortal to be felt afore he is seen,” returned the scout, ascending the rock, and throwing the deer carelessly down.

by the arm, and led him towards the door of the council lodge.

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

- ___ 1. A wide frontier had been laid naked by this unexpected disaster, and more substantial evils were preceded by a thousand fanciful and imaginary dangers.

- ___ 2. At length the sun set in a flood of glory, behind the distant western hills, and as darkness drew its veil around the secluded spot the sounds of preparation diminished.

- ___ 3. His eye, alone, which glistened like a fiery star amid lowering clouds, was to be seen in its state of native wildness.

THE LAST OF THE MOHICANS SAMPLE EXERCISES

EXERCISE 12 STYLE: ALLUSIONS AND SYMBOLS

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

a. history b. mythology c. religion d. knights/chivalry e. folklore/superstition

- ___ 1. For I have . . . seen the snows and brigantines collecting their droves, like the gathering to the ark . . .
- ___ 2. “The man is, most manifestly, a disciple of Apollo,” cried the amused Alice, “and I take him under my own especial protection.”
- ___ 3. “As the psalms of David exceed all other language, so does the psalmody that has been fitted to them by the divines and sages of the land, surpass all vain poetry.”

EXERCISE 13 STYLE: LITERARY ANALYSIS – SELECTED PASSAGE 1

Read the following passage the first time through for meaning.

For many minutes Duncan succeeded in keeping his senses on the alert, and alive to every moaning sound that arose from the forest. His vision became more acute as the shades of evening settled on the place; and even after the stars were glimmering above his head, he was able to distinguish the recumbent forms of his companions, as they lay stretched on the grass, and to note the person of Chingachgook, who sat upright and motionless as one of the trees which formed the dark barrier on every side. He still heard the gentle breathings of the sisters, who lay within a few feet of him, and not a leaf was ruffled by the passing air, of which his ear did not detect the whispering sound. At length, however, the mournful notes of a whippoorwill became blended with the moanings of an owl; his heavy eyes occasionally sought the bright rays of the stars, and then he fancied he saw them through the fallen lids. At instants of momentary wakefulness he mistook a bush for his associate sentinel; his head next sank upon his shoulder, which, in its turn, sought the support of the ground; and finally, his whole person became relaxed and pliant, and the young man sank into a deep sleep, dreaming that he was a knight of ancient chivalry, holding his midnight vigils before the tent of a recaptured princess, whose favor he did not despair of gaining, by such a proof of devotion and watchfulness. (From Chapter XIII)

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 For many minutes Duncan succeeded in keeping his senses on the alert, and alive to every moaning sound
- 2 that arose from the forest. His vision became more acute as the shades of evening settled on the place;
- 3 and even after the stars were glimmering above his head, he was able to distinguish the recumbent forms
- 4 of his companions, as they lay stretched on the grass, and to note the person of Chingachgook, who sat upright
- 5 and motionless as one of the trees which formed the dark barrier on every side. He still heard the gentle
- 6 breathings of the sisters, who lay within a few feet of him, and not a leaf was ruffled by the passing air,

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8 whippoorwill became blended with the moanings of an owl; his heavy eyes occasionally sought the bright rays
9 of the stars, and then he fancied he saw them through the fallen lids. At instants of momentary wakefulness
10 he mistook a bush for his associate sentinel; his head next sank upon his shoulder, which, in its turn, sought
11 the support of the ground; and finally, his whole person became relaxed and pliant, and the young man sank
12 into a deep sleep, dreaming that he was a knight of ancient chivalry, holding his midnight vigils before the tent
13 of a recaptured princess, whose favor he did not despair of gaining, by such a proof of devotion and watchfulness.

- ___1. The PREDOMINANT sensory imagery in the passage is . . .
a. sight and sound
b. sound and touch
c. touch and sight
d. smell and sound
- ___2. In Line 3 the word *recumbent* most likely means ALL of the following EXCEPT . . .
a. reposing b. reclining c. silent d. sleeping
- ___3. Line 5 contains an example of . . .
a. metaphor b. simile c. personification d. hyperbole