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grammar, style, and proofreading exercises

**The Grammar Dog Guide to  
The Man Who  
Would Be King  
by Rudyard Kipling**

**All exercises use sentences from the novel.  
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 MAN WHO WOULD BE KING* by Rudyard Kipling – Grammar and Style  
*All exercises use sentences from the story*

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**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.            “By my reckoning it’s the top right-hand corner of Afghanistan, not more than three hundred miles from Peshawar.”
- \_\_\_ 2.            “It’s a mountainous country, and the women of those parts are very beautiful.”
- \_\_\_ 3.            “Then we will subvert that King and seize his Throne and establish a Dynasty.”

**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.            “You’ll find him sleeping like a gentleman with all his luggage round him in a second-class compartment.”
- \_\_\_ 2.            But the consciousness of having done my duty was my only reward.
- \_\_\_ 3.            It was a pitchy black night, as stifling as a June night can be, and the loo, the red-hot wind from the westward, was booming among the tinder-dry trees and pretending that the rain was on its heels.

**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            h - hyperbole

- \_\_\_ 1.            . . . Mister Gladstone is calling down brimstone upon the British Dominions, and the little black copy boys are whining, “kaa-pi chay-ha-yeh” (copy wanted) like tired bees, and most of the paper is as blank as Modred’s shield.
- \_\_\_ 2.            There are six other months when none ever comes to call, and the thermometer walks inch by inch up to the top of the glass, and the office is darkened to just above reading light . . .
- \_\_\_ 3.            Then the telephone becomes a tinkling terror, because it tells you of the sudden deaths of men and women that you knew intimately . . .

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**EXERCISE 12**

**STYLE: ALLUSIONS AND SYMBOLS**

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

- a. history      b. religion      c. insanity      d. royalty/monarchy

- \_\_\_\_ 1.      “They have two-and-thirty heathen idols there, and we’ll be the thirty-third and fourth.”
- \_\_\_\_ 2.      “Then we will subvert that King and seize his Throne and establish a Dynasty.”
- \_\_\_\_ 3.      “We’re two harmless lunatics, and if you come tomorrow evening down to the Serai we’ll say goodbye to you.”

**EXERCISE 13**

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

Read the following passage the first time through for meaning.

One Saturday night it was my pleasant duty to put the paper to bed alone. A King or courtier or a courtesan or a Community was going to die or get a new Constitution, or do something that was important on the other side of the world, and the paper was to be held open till the latest possible minute in order to catch the telegram.

It was a pitchy black night, as stifling as a June night can be, and the loo, the red-hot wind from the westward, was booming among the tinder-dry trees and pretending that the rain was on its heels. Now and again a spot of almost boiling water would fall on the dust with the flop of a frog, but all our weary world knew that was only pretence. It was a shade cooler in the press-room than the office, so I sat there, while the type ticked and clicked and the night-jars hooted at the windows, and the all but naked compositors wiped the sweat from their foreheads, and called for water. The thing that was keeping us back, whatever it was, would not come off, though the loo dropped and the last type was set, and the whole round earth stood still in the choking heat with its finger on its lip, to wait the event. I drowsed, and wondered whether the telegraph was a blessing, and whether this dying man, or struggling people, might be aware of the inconvenience the delay was causing. There was no special reason beyond the heat and worry to make tension, but, as the clock-hands crept up to three o’clock, and the machines spun their fly-wheels two or three times to see that all was in order before I said the word that would set them off, I could have shrieked aloud.

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 One Saturday night it was my pleasant duty to put the paper to bed alone. A King or courtier
- 2 or a courtesan or a Community was going to die or get a new Constitution, or do something that
- 3 was important on the other side of the world, and the paper was to be held open till the latest
- 4 possible minute in order to catch the telegram.
- 5 It was a pitchy black night, as stifling as a June night can be, and the loo, the red-hot wind from the
- 6 westward, was booming among the tinder-dry trees and pretending that the rain was on its heels. Now

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7 and again a spot of almost boiling water would fall on the dust with the flop of a frog, but all our  
8 weary world knew that was only pretence. It was a shade cooler in the press-room than the office,  
9 so I sat there, while the type ticked and clicked and the night-jars hooted at the windows, and the  
10 all but naked compositors wiped the sweat from their foreheads, and called for water. The thing  
11 that was keeping us back, whatever it was, would not come off, though the loo dropped and the  
12 last type was set, and the whole round earth stood still in the choking heat with its finger on its lip,  
13 to wait the event. I drowsed, and wondered whether the telegraph was a blessing, and whether  
14 this dying man, or struggling people, might be aware of the inconvenience the delay was causing.  
15 There was no special reason beyond the heat and worry to make tension, but, as the clock-hands  
16 crept up to three o'clock, and the machines spun their fly-wheels two or three times to see that  
17 all was in order before I said the word that would set them off, I could have shrieked aloud.

- \_\_\_ 1.        The underlined words in Line 1 are examples of . . .  
              a. assonance    b. consonance    c. alliteration    d. rhyme
- \_\_\_ 2.        Line 6 contains an example of . . .  
              a. metaphor    b. simile    c. personification    d. hyperbole
- \_\_\_ 3.        The underlined word in Line 7 is an example of . . .  
              a. onomatopoeia    b. hyperbole    c. personification    d. metaphor