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grammar, style, and proofreading exercises

**The Grammar dog Guide to
The Mayor of
Casterbridge
by Thomas Hardy**

**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.



Grammartog.com L.L.C.
P.O. Box 299
Christoval, Texas 76935
Phone: 325-896-2479
Fax: 325-896-2676
fifi@grammartog.com

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THE MAYOR OF CASTERBRIDGE by Thomas Hardy – Grammar and Style
All exercises use sentences from the novel.

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SAMPLE EXERCISES - THE MAYOR OF CASTERBRIDGE by Thomas Hardy

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. The liquor poured in was rum.
- ___2. Up to this moment it could not positively have been asserted that the man, in spite of his tantalizing declarations, was really in earnest.
- ___3. There was then a time of sadness, in which she told him her doubts if she could live with him longer.

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. Seizing the sailor's arm with her right hand, and mounting the little girl on her left, she went out of the tent sobbing bitterly.
- ___2. Among the odds and ends he discerned a little shining object, and picked it up.
- ___3. A rustling revealed the sailor's bank-notes thrust carelessly in.

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. Upon the face of this he chinked down the shillings severally – one, two, three, four, five.
- ___2. Besides the buzz of the fly there was not a sound.
- ___3. “People at fairs change like the leaves of trees; and I daresay you are the only one here to-day who was here all those years ago.”

SAMPLE EXERCISES - THE MAYOR OF CASTERBRIDGE by Thomas Hardy

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. literature e. Naturalism/fatalism

- ___1. When she plodded on in the shade of the hedge, silently thinking, she had the hard, half-apatetic expression of one who deems anything possible at the hands of Time and Chance except, perhaps, fair play.
- ___2. The newcomer stepped forward like the quicker cripple at Bethesda, and entered in her stead.
- ___3. . . . at certain moments in the summer-time, in broad daylight, persons sitting with a book or dozing in the arena had, on lifting their eyes, beheld the slopes lined with a gazing legion of Hadrian's soldiery as if watching the gladiatorial combat . . .

EXERCISE 13 STYLE: LITERARY ANALYSIS – SELECTED PASSAGE 1

Read the following passage the first time through for meaning.

Casterbridge, as has been hinted, was a place deposited in the block upon a corn-field. There was no suburb in the modern sense, or transitional intermixture of town and down. It stood, with regard to the wide fertile land adjoining, clean-cut and distinct, like a chess-board on a green table-cloth. The farmer's boy could sit under his barley-mow and pitch a stone into the office window of the town-clerk; reapers at work among the sheaves nodded to acquaintances standing on the pavement corner; the red-robed judge, when he condemned a sheep-stealer, pronounced sentence to the tune of Baa, that floated in at the window from the remainder of the flock browsing hard by; and at executions the waiting crowd stood in a meadow immediately before the drop, out of which the cows had been temporarily driven to give the spectators room.

The corn grown on the upland side of the borough was garnered by farmers who lived in an eastern purlieu called Durnover. Here wheat-ricks overhung the old Roman street, and thrust their eaves against the church tower; green-thatched barns, with doorways as high as the gates of Solomon's Temple, opened directly upon the main thoroughfare. Barns indeed were so numerous as to alternate with every half-dozen houses along the way. Here lived burgesses who daily walked the fallow; shepherds in an intramural squeeze. A street of farmers' homesteads – a street ruled by a mayor and corporation, yet echoing with the thump of the flail, the flutter of the winnowing-fan, and the purr of the milk into the pails – a street which had nothing urban in it whatever – this was the Durnover end of Casterbridge. (From Chapter XIV)

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 Casterbridge, as has been hinted, was a place deposited in the block upon a corn-field. There was no suburb
- 2 in the modern sense, or transitional intermixture of town and down. It stood, with regard to the wide fertile
- 3 land adjoining, clean-cut and distinct, like a chess-board on a green table-cloth. The farmer's boy could sit
- 4 under his barley-mow and pitch a stone into the office window of the town-clerk; reapers at work among the
- 5 sheaves nodded to acquaintances standing on the pavement corner; the red-robed judge, when he condemned

SAMPLE EXERCISES - *THE MAYOR OF CASTERBRIDGE* by Thomas Hardy

6 a sheep-stealer, pronounced sentence to the tune of Baa, that floated in at the window from the remainder of
7 the flock browsing hard by; and at executions the waiting crowd stood in a meadow immediately before the
8 drop, out of which the cows had been temporarily driven to give the spectators room.
9 The corn grown on the upland side of the borough was garnered by farmers who lived in an eastern purlieu
10 called Durnover. Here wheat-ricks overhung the old Roman street, and thrust their eaves against the church
11 tower; green-thatched barns, with doorways as high as the gates of Solomon's Temple, opened directly upon
12 the main thoroughfare. Barns indeed were so numerous as to alternate with every half-dozen houses along
13 the way. Here lived burgesses who daily walked the fallow; shepherds in an intramural squeeze. A street of
14 farmers' homesteads – a street ruled by a mayor and corporation, yet echoing with the thump of the flail,
15 the flutter of the winnowing-fan, and the purr of the milk into the pails – a street which had nothing urban
16 in it whatever – this was the Durnover end of Casterbridge.

- ___ 1. The underlined words in Line 2 are an example of . . .
a. assonance b. consonance c. alliteration d. rhyme
- ___ 2. The underlined words in Line 11 are an example of . . .
a. allusion b. simile c. metaphor d. personification
- ___ 3. ALL of the following statements are accurate EXCEPT . . .
a. The passage describes a country town.
b. The passage describes a town set apart from the rural surroundings.
c. The passage describes an unusual English town.
d. The passage describes a town that relies on agriculture.