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grammar, style, and proofreading exercises

**The Grammar dog Guide to
The Sea-Wolf
by Jack London**

**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 SEA-WOLF by Jack London – Grammar and Style
All exercises use sentences from the novel.

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SAMPLE EXERCISES - THE SEA-WOLF by Jack London

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. Oaths rolled from his lips in a continuous stream.
- ___2. Each word was a blasphemy, and there were many words.
- ___3. Oaths and vile language of any sort had always been repellent to me.
- ___4. He relighted his cigar and glanced around.

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 saw the smoke issuing from his lips as he slowly turned his head and glanced out over the water in my direction.
- ___2. The man addressed as Yonson, a man of the heavy Scandinavian type, ceased chafing me and arose awkwardly to his feet.
- ___3. He continued to grin with a sardonic humor, with a cynical mockery and defiance.

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. The fog seemed to break away as though split by a wedge, and the bow of a steamboat emerged trailing fog wreaths on either side like seaweed on the snout of Leviathan.
- ___2. He accepted destiny, marched hand in hand with it, and coolly measured the stroke.
- ___3. “Well, Cooky?” he began with a suaveness that was cold and of the temper of steel.

SAMPLE EXERCISES - THE SEA-WOLF by Jack London

EXERCISE 12 STYLE: ALLUSIONS AND SYMBOLS

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

a. literature b. mythology c. religion d. Naturalism/fatalism e. primitive savagery

- ___1. On the other hand, instead of having to devote my energy to the learning of a multitude of things, I concentrated it upon a few particular things, such as . . . the analysis of Poe's place in American literature.

- ___2. It was a strength we are wont to associate with things primitive, with wild animals and the creatures we imagine our tree-dwelling prototypes to have been.

- ___3. "Any of you fellows got a Bible or prayer book?" was the captain's next demand, this time of the hunters lounging about the companionway.

EXERCISE 13 STYLE: LITERARY ANALYSIS – SELECTED PASSAGE 1

Read the following passage the first time through for meaning.

And yet, while he was of massive build, with broad shoulders and deep chest, I could not characterize his strength as massive. It was what might be termed sinewy, knotty strength, of the kind we ascribe to lean and wiry men, but which, in him, because of his heavy build, partook more of the enlarged gorilla order. Not that in appearance he seemed in the least gorillalike. What I am striving to express is this strength itself, more as a thing apart from his physical semblance. It was a strength we are wont to associate with things primitive, with wild animals and the creatures we imagine our tree-dwelling prototypes to have been – a strength savage, ferocious, alive in itself, the essence of life in that it is the potency of motion, the elemental stuff itself out of which writhes the body of a snake when the head is cut off and the snake, as a snake, is dead, or which lingers in a shapeless lump of turtle meat and recoils and quivers from the prod of a finger.

Such was the impression of strength I gathered from this man who paced up and down. He was firmly planted on his legs; his feet struck the deck squarely and with surety; every movement of a muscle, from the heave of the shoulders to the tightening of the lips about the cigar, was decisive and seemed to come out of a strength that was excessive and overwhelming. In fact, though this strength pervaded every action of his, it seemed but the advertisement of a greater strength that lurked within, that lay dormant and no more than stirred from time to time, but which might arouse at any moment, terrible and compelling, like the rage of a lion or the wrath of a storm. (From Chapter 2)

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 And yet, while he was of massive build, with broad shoulders and deep chest, I could
- 2 not characterize his strength as massive. It was what might be termed sinewy, knotty strength,
- 3 of the kind we ascribe to lean and wiry men, but which, in him, because of his heavy build,

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4 partook more of the enlarged gorilla order. Not that in appearance he seemed in the least
5 gorillalike. What I am striving to express is this strength itself, more as a thing apart from his
6 physical semblance. It was a strength we are wont to associate with things primitive, with
7 wild animals and the creatures we imagine our tree-dwelling prototypes to have been – a
8 strength savage, ferocious, alive in itself, the essence of life in that it is the potency of motion,
9 the elemental stuff itself out of which writhes the body of a snake when the head is cut off and
10 the snake, as a snake, is dead, or which lingers in a shapeless lump of turtle meat and recoils and
11 quivers from the prod of a finger.
12 Such was the impression of strength I gathered from this man who paced up and down. He was
13 firmly planted on his legs; his feet struck the deck squarely and with surety; every movement of
14 a muscle, from the heave of the shoulders to the tightening of the lips about the cigar, was decisive
15 and seemed to come out of a strength that was excessive and overwhelming. In fact, though this
16 strength pervaded every action of his, it seemed but the advertisement of a greater strength that
17 lurked within, that lay dormant and no more than stirred from time to time, but which might
18 arouse at any moment, terrible and compelling, like the rage of a lion or the wrath of a storm.

- ___1. The word *gorillalike* in Line 5 is an example of . . .
a. metaphor b. simile c. personification d. hyperbole
- ___2. The underlined words in Line 4 are an example of . . .
a. assonance b. consonance c. alliteration d. rhyme
- ___3. Lines 9 through 11 contain examples of . . .
a. analogy b. allusion c. allegory d. anecdote