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grammar, style, and proofreading exercises

**The Grammar Dog Guide to  
The Tempest  
by William Shakespeare**

**All exercises use sentences from the play.  
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 TEMPEST* by William Shakespeare – Grammar and Style  
*All exercises use sentences from the play.*

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## SAMPLE EXERCISES - THE TEMPEST by William Shakespeare

### 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

#### ACT I

- \_\_\_ 1. Thy mother was a piece of virtue, and she said thou wast my daughter; and thy father was Duke of Milan.
- \_\_\_ 2. Your tale, sir, would cure deafness.
- \_\_\_ 3. Good wombs have borne bad sons.

### EXERCISE 6 PHRASES

Identify the phrases in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

*par* = participial

*ger* = gerund

*inf* = infinitive

*appos* = appositive

*prep* = prepositional

#### ACT I

- \_\_\_ 1. We are less afraid to be drowned than thou art.
- \_\_\_ 2. Thou didst smile, infused with a fortitude from heaven, when I have decked the sea with drops full salt, under my burden groaned.
- \_\_\_ 3. We'll visit Caliban, my slave, who never yields us kind answer.

### 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

#### ACT I

- \_\_\_ 1. . . he was the ivy which had hid my princely trunk and sucked my verdure out on 't.
- \_\_\_ 2. To cry to th' sea that roared to us; to sigh to th' winds, whose pity, sighing back again, did us but loving wrong.
- \_\_\_ 3. Bow, wow! The watchdogs bark. Bow, wow!

**SAMPLE EXERCISES - THE TEMPEST** by William Shakespeare

**EXERCISE 12      STYLE: ALLUSIONS**

Identify the allusions in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

a. *mythology*      b. *religion*      c. *literature*      d. *witchcraft/magic*      e. *folklore*

**ACT I**

- \_\_\_1.      Lend thy hand and pluck my magic garment from me.
- \_\_\_2.      O, a cherubin thou wast that did preserve me!
- \_\_\_3.      Jove's lightnings, the precursors o' th' dreadful thunderclaps, more momentary and sight-outrunning were not.

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

Read the following passage the first time through for meaning.

*Prospero.* You do look, my son, in a moved sort,  
As if you were dismayed; be cheerful, sir.  
Our revels now are ended. These our actors,  
As I foretold you, were all spirits and  
Are melted into air, into thin air;  
And, like the baseless fabric of this vision,  
The cloud-capped towers, the gorgeous palaces,  
The solemn temples, the great globe itself,  
Yea, all which it inherit, shall dissolve,  
And, like this unsubstantial pageant faded,  
Leave not a rack behind. We are such stuff  
As dreams are made on, and our little life  
Is rounded with a sleep. Sir, I am vexed.  
Bear with my weakness; my old brain is troubled.  
Be not disturbed with my infirmity.  
If you be pleased, retire into my cell  
And there repose. A turn or two I'll walk  
To still my beating mind. (IV, i, 146-163)

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 *Prospero.* You do look, my son, in a moved sort,
- 2 As if you were dismayed; be cheerful, sir.
- 3 Our revels now are ended. These our actors,
- 4 As I foretold you, were all spirits and
- 5 Are melted into air, into thin air;

**SAMPLE EXERCISES - THE TEMPEST by William Shakespeare**

6 And, like the baseless fabric of this vision,

7 The cloud-capped towers, the gorgeous palaces,

8 The solemn temples, the great globe itself,

9 Yea, all which it inherit, shall dissolve,

10 And, like this unsubstantial pageant faded,

11 Leave not a rack behind. We are such stuff

12 As dreams are made on, and our little life

13 Is rounded with a sleep. Sir, I am vexed.

14 Bear with my weakness; my old brain is troubled.

15 Be not disturbed with my infirmity.

16 If you be pleased, retire into my cell

17 And there repose. A turn or two I'll walk

18 To still my beating mind.

- \_\_\_ 1. ALL of the following descriptions are parallel in tone EXCEPT . . .
- a. *be cheerful, sir* (Line 2)
  - b. *Sir, I am vexed.* (Line 13)
  - c. *Be not disturbed with my infirmity* (Line 15)
  - d. *If you be pleased, retire to my cell* (Line 16)
- \_\_\_ 2. Line 5 contains an example of . . .
- a. anaphora
  - b. analogy
  - c. allegory
  - d. allusion
- \_\_\_ 3. The underlined words in Line 11 are examples of . . .
- a. alliteration and consonance
  - b. alliteration and rhyme
  - c. alliteration and assonance
  - d. alliteration and repetition