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grammar, style, and proofreading exercises

**The Grammar Dog Guide to  
The Three Strangers  
by Thomas Hardy**

**All exercises use sentences from the story.  
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 THREE STRANGERS* by Thomas Hardy – Grammar and Style  
*All exercises use sentences from the story*

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**SAMPLE EXERCISES - THE THREE STRANGERS** 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  
p.a. = predicate adjective    o.p. = object of preposition

- \_\_\_ 1.            The night of March 28, 182--, was precisely one of the nights that were wont to call forth these expressions of commiseration.
  
- \_\_\_ 2.            The gable-end of the cottage was stained with wet, and the eavesdroppings flapped against the wall.
  
- \_\_\_ 3.            This position of candles was in itself significant.

**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.            The room was lighted by half a dozen candles having wicks only a trifle smaller than the grease which enveloped them, in candlesticks that were never used but at high-days, holy-days, and family feasts.
  
- \_\_\_ 2.            Four men, including Charley Jake, the hedge-carpenter, Elijah New, the parish-clerk, and John Pitcher, a neighboring dairyman, the shepherd's father-in-law, lolled in the settle.
  
- \_\_\_ 3.            But this scheme was entirely confined to her own gentle mind.

**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

- \_\_\_ 1.            Such sheep and outdoor animals as had no shelter stood with their buttocks to the winds; while the tails of little birds trying to roost on some scraggy thorn were blown inside-out like umbrellas.
  
- \_\_\_ 2.            At seven the shrill tweedle-dee of this youngster had begun, accompanied by a booming ground bass from Elijah New, the parish-clerk, who had thoughtfully brought with him his favorite musical instrument, the serpent.
  
- \_\_\_ 3.            It was nearly the time of full moon, and on this account, though the sky was lined with a uniform sheet of dripping cloud, ordinary objects out of doors

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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. archetypes      b. religion      c. occupations      d. crime/law and order      e. isolation

- \_\_\_\_ 1.      Fifty years ago such a lonely cottage stood on such a down, and may possibly be standing there now.
  
- \_\_\_\_ 2.      Five miles of irregular upland, during the long inimical seasons, with their sleets, snows, rains, and mists, afford withdrawing space enough to isolate a Timon or a Nebuchadnezzar.
  
- \_\_\_\_ 3.      The level rainstorm smote walls, slopes, and hedges like the clothyard shafts of Senlac and Crecy.

**EXERCISE 13**

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

Read the following passage the first time through for meaning.

It was nearly the time of full moon, and on this account, though the sky was lined with a uniform sheet of dripping cloud, ordinary objects out of doors were readily visible. The sad, wan light revealed the lonely pedestrian to be a man of supple frame; his gait suggested that he had somewhat passed the period of perfect and instinctive agility, though not so far as to be otherwise than rapid of motion when occasion required. At a rough guess, he might have been about forty years of age. He appeared tall, but a recruiting sergeant, or other person accustomed to the judging of men's heights by the eye, would have discerned that this was chiefly owing to his gauntness, and that he was not more than five-feet-eight or nine.

Notwithstanding the regularity of his tread, there was caution in it, as in that of one who mentally feels his way; and despite the fact that it was not a black coat nor a dark garment of any sort that he wore, there was something about him which suggested that he naturally belonged to the black-coated tribes of men. His clothes were of fustian, and his boots hobnailed, yet in his progress he showed not the mud-accustomed bearing of hobnailed and fustianed peasantry.

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 It was nearly the time of full moon, and on this account, though the sky was lined with a uniform
- 2 sheet of dripping cloud, ordinary objects out of doors were readily visible. The sad, wan light revealed
- 3 the lonely pedestrian to be a man of supple frame; his gait suggested that he had somewhat passed the
- 4 period of perfect and instinctive agility, though not so far as to be otherwise than rapid of motion
- 5 when occasion required. At a rough guess, he might have been about forty years of age. He appeared
- 6 tall, but a recruiting sergeant, or other person accustomed to the judging of men's heights by the eye,
- 7 would have discerned that this was chiefly owing to his gauntness, and that he was not more than

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8 five-feet-eight or nine.

9 Notwithstanding the regularity of his tread, there was caution in it, as in that of one who mentally feels  
10 his way; and despite the fact that it was not a black coat nor a dark garment of any sort that he wore, there  
11 was something about him which suggested that he naturally belonged to the black-coated tribes of men.  
12 His clothes were of fustian, and his boots hobnailed, yet in his progress he showed not the mud-accustomed  
13 bearing of hobnailed and fustianed peasantry.

- \_\_\_1. In Lines 1-2 *uniform sheet of dripping cloud* is an example of . . .  
a. metaphor b. simile c. personification d. hyperbole
- \_\_\_2. In Line 2 *The sad, wan light revealed* is an example of . . .  
a. hyperbole b. personification c. simile d. metaphor
- \_\_\_3. ALL of the following descriptions are parallel in function EXCEPT . . .  
a. *a man of supple frame* (Line 3)  
b. *he had somewhat passed the period of perfect and instinctive agility* (Line 3-4)  
c. *one who mentally feels his way* (Line 9-10)  
d. *he showed not the mud-accustomed bearing of hobnailed and fustianed peasantry* (Line 12-13)