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grammar, style, and proofreading exercises

**The Grammar dog Guide to  
The Adventures of  
Tom Sawyer  
by Mark Twain**

**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 ADVENTURES OF TOM SAWYER* by Mark Twain – Grammar and Style  
*All exercises use sentences from the novel.*

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**SAMPLE EXERCISES - THE ADVENTURES OF TOM SAWYER** by Mark Twain

**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 old lady whirled round, and snatched her skirts out of danger.
- \_\_\_2.            Diligence and attention soon gave him the knack of it, and he strode down the street with his mouth full of harmony and his soul full of gratitude.
- \_\_\_3.            The new boy took two broad coppers out of his pocket and held them out with derision.

**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.            He got back home barely in season to help Jim, the small colored boy, saw next day's wood and split the kindlings before supper – at least he there in time to tell his adventures to Jim while Jim did three-fourths of the work.
- \_\_\_2.            Aunt Polly was vexed to think she had overlooked that bit of circumstantial evidence, and missed a trick.
- \_\_\_3.            He even wore a necktie, a bright bit of ribbon.

**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.            Sighing he dipped his brush and passed it along the topmost plank; repeated the operation ; did it again; compared the insignificant whitewashed streak with the far-reaching continent of unwhitewashed fence, and sat down on a tree-box discouraged.
- \_\_\_2.            There was a whiz as of a missile in the air, mingled with the murmur of a curse, a sound as of shivery glass followed, and a small, vague form went over the fence and shot away in the gloom.
- \_\_\_3.            The sun rose upon a tranquil world, and beamed down upon the peaceful village like a benediction.

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**EXERCISE 12      STYLE: ALLUSIONS**

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

*a. historical      b. mythological      c. religious      d. folklore/superstition*

- \_\_\_1.      “Spare the rod and spoil the child, as the Good Book says.”
- \_\_\_2.      “He’s full of the Old Scratch, but law-a-me! he’s my own dead sister’s boy, poor thing, and I ain’t got the heart to lash him, somehow.
- \_\_\_3.      “It’s Tom Sawyer the Pirate! – the Black Avenger of the Spanish Main!”

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

Read the following passage the first time through for meaning.

As he was passing by the house where Jeff Thatcher lived, he saw a new girl in the garden – a lovely little blue-eyed creature with yellow hair plaited into two long tails, white summer frock and embroidered pantalettes. The fresh-crowned hero fell without firing a shot. A certain Amy Lawrence vanished out of his heart and left not even a memory of herself behind. He had thought he loved her to distraction, he had regarded his passion as adoration; and behold it was only a poor little evanescent partiality. He had been months winning her; she had confessed hardly a week ago; he had been the happiest and the proudest boy in the world only seven short days, and here in one instant of time she had gone out of his heart like a casual stranger whose visit is done.

He worshipped this new angel with furtive eye, till he saw that she had discovered him; then he pretended he did not know she was present, and began to “show off” in all sorts of absurd boyish ways, in order to win her admiration. He kept up this grotesque foolishness for some time; but by and by, while he was in the midst of some dangerous gymnastic performances, he glanced aside and saw that the little girl was wending her way toward the house. Tom came up to the fence and leaned on it, grieving, and hoping she would tarry yet a while longer. She halted a moment on the steps and then moved toward the door. Tom heaved a great sigh as she put her foot on the threshold. But his face lit up, right away, for she tossed a pansy over the fence a moment before she disappeared.

The boy ran around and stopped within a foot or two of the flower, and then shaded his eyes with his hand and began to look down street as if he had discovered something of interest going on in that direction. Presently he picked up a straw and began trying to balance it on his nose, with his head tilted far back; and as he moved from side to side, in his efforts, he edged nearer and nearer toward the pansy; finally his bare foot rested upon it, his pliant toes closed upon it, and he hopped away with the treasure and disappeared round the corner. But only for a minute – only while he could button the flower inside his jacket, next to his heart – or next to his stomach, possibly, for he was not much posted in anatomy, and not hypercritical, anyway. (From Chapter 3)

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 As he was passing by the house where Jeff Thatcher lived, he saw a new girl in the garden – a lovely little blue-
- 2 eyed creature with yellow hair plaited into two long tails, white summer frock and embroidered pantalettes. The
- 3 fresh-crowned hero fell without firing a shot. A certain Amy Lawrence vanished out of his heart and left not
- 4 even a memory of herself behind. He had thought he loved her to distraction, he had regarded his passion as
- 5 adoration; and behold it was only a poor little evanescent partiality. He had been months winning her; she had

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6 confessed hardly a week ago; he had been the happiest and the proudest boy in the world only seven short days,  
7 and here in one instant of time she had gone out of his heart like a casual stranger whose visit is done.  
8 He worshipped this new angel with furtive eye, till he saw that she had discovered him; then he pretended he did  
9 not know she was present, and began to “show off” in all sorts of absurd boyish ways, in order to win her  
10 admiration. He kept up this grotesque foolishness for some time; but by and by, while he was in the midst of  
11 some dangerous gymnastic performances, he glanced aside and saw that the little girl was wending her way  
12 toward the house. Tom came up to the fence and leaned on it, grieving, and hoping she would tarry yet a while  
13 longer. She halted a moment on the steps and then moved toward the door. Tom heaved a great sigh as she put  
14 her foot on the threshold. But his face lit up, right away, for she tossed a pansy over the fence a moment before  
15 she disappeared.

16 The boy ran around and stopped within a foot or two of the flower, and then shaded his eyes with his hand and  
17 began to look down street as if he had discovered something of interest going on in that direction. Presently he  
18 picked up a straw and began trying to balance it on his nose, with his head tilted far back; and as he moved  
19 from side to side, in his efforts, he edged nearer and nearer toward the pansy; finally his bare foot rested upon it,  
20 his pliant toes closed upon it, and he hopped away with the treasure and disappeared round the corner. But only  
21 for a minute – only while he could button the flower inside his jacket, next to his heart – or next to his stomach,  
22 possibly, for he was not much posted in anatomy, and not hypercritical, anyway.

- \_\_\_ 1.        The underlined words in Line 1 are an example of . . .  
              a. assonance        b. consonance        c. alliteration
- \_\_\_ 2.        Line 7 contains an example of . . .  
              a. metaphor        b. simile        c. personification
- \_\_\_ 3.        All of the following statements describe the action of the passage EXCEPT . . .  
              a. Tom enjoys the challenge of courtship.  
              b. Children are highly skilled at flirtation.  
              c. Tom is romantic and sentimental.  
              d. Tom enjoys being in love.