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grammar, style, and proofreading exercises

**The Grammar dog Guide to
Uncle Tom's Cabin
by Harriet Beecher Stowe**

**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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UNCLE TOM'S CABIN by Harriet Beecher Stowe – Grammar and Style
All exercises use sentences from the novel.

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SAMPLE EXERCISES - UNCLE TOM'S CABIN by Harriet Beecher Stowe

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. Mrs. Shelby was a woman of a high class, both intellectually and morally.

- ___2. Certain it was that he gave her unlimited scope in all her benevolent efforts for the comfort, instruction, and improvement of her servants, though he never took any decided part in them herself.

- ___3. She had been married to a bright and talented young mulatto man, who was a slave on a neighboring estate, and bore the name of George Harris.

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. Perhaps the mildest form of the system of slavery is to be seen in the State of Kentucky.

- ___2. It was during the happy period of his employment in the factory that George had seen and married his wife.

- ___3. In one corner of it stood a bed, covered neatly with a snowy spread; and by the side of it was a piece of carpeting, of some considerable size.

EXERCISE 9 STYLE: FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Identify the figurative language in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

p = personification

s = simile

m = metaphor

o = onomatopoeia

h = hyperbole

- ___1. He folded his arms, tightly pressed in his lips, but a whole volcano of bitter feelings burned in his bosom, and sent streams of fire through his veins.

- ___2. She had never seen her husband in this mood before; and her gentle system of ethics seemed to bend like a reed in the surges of such passions.

- ___3. Then there were last words, and sobs, and bitter weeping, -- such parting as those may make whose hope to meet again is as the spider's web, -- and the husband and wife were parted.

SAMPLE EXERCISES - UNCLE TOM'S CABIN by Harriet Beecher Stowe

EXERCISE 12 STYLE: ALLUSIONS AND SYMBOLS

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

a. history b. mythology c. religion d. literature e. folklore/superstition

- ___1. Her first glance was at the river, which lay, like Jordan, between her and the Canaan of liberty on the other side.

- ___2. Tom received the compliment with becoming modesty, and began to look as affable as was consistent, as John Bunyan says, “with his doggish nature.”

- ___3. And if he had been the prodigal son himself, he could not have been overwhelmed with more maternal bountifulness.

EXERCISE 13 STYLE: LITERARY ANALYSIS – SELECTED PASSAGE 1

Read the following passage the first time through for meaning.

Know, then, innocent eastern friend, that in benighted regions of the west, where the mud is of unfathomable and sublime depth, roads are made of round rough logs, arranged transversely side by side, and coated over in their pristine freshness with earth, turf, and whatsoever may come to hand, and then the rejoicing native calleth it a road, and straightway essayeth to ride thereupon. In process of time, the rains wash off all the turf and grass aforesaid, move the logs hither and thither, in picturesque positions, up, down and crosswise, with divers chasms and ruts of black mud intervening.

Over such a road as this our senator went stumbling along, making moral reflections as continuously as under the circumstances could be expected, -- the carriage proceeding along much as follows, -- bump! bump! bump! slush! down in the mud! -- the senator, woman and child, reversing their positions so suddenly as to come, without any very accurate adjustment, against the windows of the downhill side. Carriage sticks fast, while Cudjoe on the outside is heard making a great muster among the horses. After various ineffectual pullings and twitchings, just as the senator is losing all patience, the carriage suddenly rights itself with a bounce, -- two front wheels go down into another abyss, and senator, woman, and child, all tumble promiscuously on to the front seat, -- senator's hat is jammed over his eyes and nose quite unceremoniously, and he considers himself fairly extinguished; -- child cries, and Cudjoe on the outside delivers animated addresses to the horses, who are kicking, and floundering, and straining, under repeated cracks of the whip. Carriage springs up, with another bounce, -- down go the hind wheels, -- senator, woman, and child, fly over on to the back seat, his elbows encountering her bonnet, and both her feet being jammed into his hat, which flies off in the concussion. After a few moments the “slough” is passed, and the horses stop, panting; -- the senator finds his hat, the woman straightens her bonnet and hushes her child, and they brace themselves firmly for what is yet to come. (From Chapter 9)

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 Know, then, innocent eastern friend, that in benighted regions of the west, where the mud is of

- 2 unfathomable and sublime depth, roads are made of round rough logs, arranged transversely

SAMPLE EXERCISES - *UNCLE TOM'S CABIN* by Harriet Beecher Stowe

3 side by side, and coated over in their pristine freshness with earth, turf, and whatsoever may
4 come to hand, and then the rejoicing native calleth it a road, and straightway essayeth to ride
5 thereupon. In process of time, the rains wash off all the turf and grass aforesaid, move the logs
6 hither and thither, in picturesque positions, up, down and crosswise, with divers chasms and
7 ruts of black mud intervening.

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21 feet being jammed into his hat, which flies off in the concussion. After a few moments the “slough”
22 is passed, and the horses stop, panting; -- the senator finds his hat, the woman straightens her
23 bonnet and hushes her child, and they brace themselves firmly for what is yet to come.

- ___ 1. A shift occurs in Line . . .
a. 4 b. 8 c. 10 d. 16
- ___ 2. The underlined words in Line 2 are examples of . . .
a. assonance b. consonance c. alliteration d. rhyme
- ___ 3. The underlined words in Line 3 are examples of . . .
a. assonance b. consonance c. alliteration d. rhyme