



The Grammar Dog Guide to Rip Van Winkle by Washington Irving

**All quizzes 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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SAMPLE EXERCISES - RIP VAN WINKLE by Washington Irving

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. They are a dismembered branch of the great Appalachian family, and are seen away to the west of the river, swelling up to a noble height and lording it over the surrounding country.

- ___2. He was a descendant of the Van Winkles who figured so gallantly in the chivalrous days of Peter Stuyvesant, and accompanied him to the siege of Fort Christina.

- ___3. He inherited, however, but little of the martial character of his ancestors.

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 following Tale was found among the papers of the late Diedrich Knickerbocker, an old gentleman of New York, who was very curious in the Dutch history of the province and the manners of the descendants from its primitive settlers.

- ___2. He would carry a fowling piece on his shoulder for hours together, trudging through woods and swamps and up hill and down dale to shoot a few squirrels or wild pigeons.

- ___3. The women of the village, too, used to employ him to run their errands and to do such little odd jobs as their less obliging husbands would not do for them.

EXERCISE 9 STYLE: FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

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

p = personification m = metaphor s = simile h = hyperbole o = onomatopoeia

- ___1. Their tempers . . . are rendered pliant and malleable in the fiery furnace of domestic tribulation . . .

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- ___2. Whenever he went dodging about the village, he was surrounded by a troop of them, hanging on his skirts, clambering on his back, and playing a thousand tricks on him with impunity.
- ___3. . . . for he would sit on a wet rock, with a rod as long and heavy as a Tartar's lance, and fish all day without a murmur, even though he should not be encouraged by a single nibble.

EXERCISE 12 STYLE: ALLUSIONS AND SYMBOLS

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

a. history b. geography c. religion d. unhappy marriage e. folklore/superstition

- ___1. They are a dismembered branch of the great Appalachian family, and are seen away to the west of the river, swelling up to a noble height and lording it over the surrounding country.
- ___2. At the foot of these fairy mountains, the voyager may have described the light smoke curling up from a village, whose shingle roofs gleam among the trees, just where the blue tints of the upland melt away into the fresh green of the nearer landscape.
- ___3. It is a little village of great antiquity, having been founded by some of the Dutch colonists in the early times of the province, just about the beginning of the government of the good Peter Stuyvesant . . .

EXERCISE 13 STYLE: LITERARY ANALYSIS – SELECTED PASSAGE 1

Read the following passage the first time through for meaning.

Rip Van Winkle, however, was one of those happy mortals of foolish, well-oiled dispositions who take the world easy, eat white bread or brown, whichever can be got with least thought or trouble, and would rather starve on a penny than work for a pound. If left to himself, he would have whistled life away in perfect contentment; but his wife kept continually dinning in his ears about his idleness, his carelessness, and the ruin he was bringing on his family. Morning, noon, and night, her tongue was incessantly going, and everything he said or did was sure to produce a torrent of household eloquence. Rip had but one way of replying to all lectures of the kind, and that, by frequent use, had grown into a habit. He shrugged his shoulders, shook his head, cast up his eyes, but said nothing. This, however, always provoked a fresh volley from his wife, so that he was fain to draw off his forces and take to the outside of the house – the only side which, in truth, belongs to a henpecked husband.

Rip's sole domestic adherent was his dog, Wolf, who was as much henpecked as his master, for Dame Van Winkle regarded them as companions in idleness, and even looked upon Wolf with an evil eye as the cause of his master's going so often astray. True it is, in all points of spirit befitting an honorable dog, he was as courageous an animal as ever scoured the woods – but what courage can withstand the ever-during and all-besetting terrors of a woman's tongue? The moment Wolf

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entered the house his crest fell, his tail drooped to the ground, or curled between his legs, he sneaked about with a gallows air, casting many a sidelong glance at Dame Van Winkle, and at the least flourish of a broomstick or ladle he would fly to the door with yelping precipitation.

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 Rip Van Winkle, however, was one of those happy mortals of foolish, well-oiled dispositions
2 who take the world easy, eat white bread or brown, whichever can be got with least thought or
3 trouble, and would rather starve on a penny than work for a pound. If left to himself, he would
4 have whistled life away in perfect contentment; but his wife kept continually dinning in his ears
5 about his idleness, his carelessness, and the ruin he was bringing on his family. Morning, noon,
6 and night, her tongue was incessantly going, and everything he said or did was sure to produce
7 a torrent of household eloquence. Rip had but one way of replying to all lectures of the kind, and
8 that, by frequent use, had grown into a habit. He shrugged his shoulders, shook his head, cast up
9 his eyes, but said nothing. This, however, always provoked a fresh volley from his wife, so that he
10 was fain to draw off his forces and take to the outside of the house – the only side which, in truth,
11 belongs to a henpecked husband.

12 Rip's sole domestic adherent was his dog, Wolf, who was as much henpecked as his master, for
13 Dame Van Winkle regarded them as companions in idleness, and even looked upon Wolf with an
14 evil eye as the cause of his master's going so often astray. True it is, in all points of spirit befitting
15 an honorable dog, he was as courageous an animal as ever scoured the woods – but what courage
16 can withstand the ever-during and all-besetting terrors of a woman's tongue? The moment Wolf
17 entered the house his crest fell, his tail drooped to the ground, or curled between his legs, he sneaked
18 about with a gallows air, casting many a sidelong glance at Dame Van Winkle, and at the least flourish
19 of a broomstick or ladle he would fly to the door with yelping precipitation.

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- ___1. The underlined words in Line 2 are examples of . . .
a. assonance b. consonance c. alliteration d. rhyme
- ___2. The underlined words in Line 8 are examples of . . .
a. assonance b. consonance c. alliteration d. rhyme
- ___3. ALL of the following words are part of the pattern of repetition EXCEPT . . .
a. tongue b. idleness c. henpecked d. lectures

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