



**The Grammar Dog Guide to
A Connecticut
Yankee
in King Arthur's
Court
by Mark Twain**

**All quizzes use sentences from the novel.
Includes over 250 multiple choice questions.**

About Grammartdog

Grammartdog 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 Grammartdog.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.

Grammartdog'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 - A CONNECTICUT YANKEE IN KING ARTHUR'S COURT 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

p.a. = predicate adjective o.p. = object of a preposition

- ___ 1. With that they saw a damsel going upon the lake.
- ___ 2. However, to the unconsciously indelicate all things are delicate.
- ___ 3. Apparently the whole nation wanted a look at me.

EXERCISE 6 PHRASES

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

par = participle

ger = gerund

inf = infinitive

appos = appositive

prep = prepositional

- ___ 1. Presently a fair slip of a girl, about ten years old, with a cataract of golden hair streaming down over her shoulders, came along.
- ___ 2. All of these people stared at me, talked about me, ran into the huts and fetched out their families to gape at me.
- ___ 3. So, if I could keep my anxiety and curiosity from eating the heart out of me for forty-eight hours I should then find out for certain whether this boy was telling me the truth or not.

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

h = hyperbole

- ___ 1. At the end of an hour we saw a far-away town sleeping in a valley by a winding river; and beyond it on a hill, a vast grey fortress, with towers and turrets, the first I had ever seen out of a picture.
- ___ 2. It was a soft, reposeful, summer landscape, as lovely as a dream, and as lonesome as Sunday.
- ___ 3. I looked at the boy in sorrow; and as I looked I saw the cloud of a deep despondency settle upon his countenance.

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EXERCISE 12 STYLE: ALLUSIONS

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

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

- ___1. One thing at a time, is my motto – and just play that thing for all it is worth, even if it's only two pair and a jack.

- ___2. We should have had talk from Rachel and Ivanhoe and the soft Lady Rowena which would embarrass a tramp in our day.

- ___3. It came into my mind, in the nick of time how Columbus, or Cortez, or one of those people, played an eclipse as a saving trump once, on some savages, and I saw my chance.

EXERCISE 14 STYLE: LITERARY ANALYSIS – SELECTED PASSAGE 2

Read the following passage the first time through for meaning.

Gradually, as the time wore along, one annoying fact was borne in upon my understanding – that we were weather-bound. An armed novice cannot mount his horse without help and plenty of it. Sandy was not enough – not enough for me, anyway. We had to wait until somebody should come along. Waiting, in silence, would have been agreeable enough, for I was full of matter for reflection, and wanted to give it a chance to work. I wanted to try and think out how it was that rational or even half-rational men could ever have learned to wear armour, considering its inconveniences; and how they had managed to keep up such a fashion for generations when it was plain that what I had suffered today they had had to suffer all the days of their lives. I wanted to think that out; and moreover I wanted to think out some way to reform this evil and persuade people to let the foolish fashion die out; but thinking was out of the question in the circumstances. You couldn't think, where Sandy was. She was a quite biddable creature and good-hearted, but she had a flow of talk that was as steady as a mill, and made your head sore like the drays and wagons in a city. If she had had a cork she would have been a comfort. But you can't cork that kind; they would die. Her clack was going all day, and you would think something would surely happen to her works, by-and-by; but no, they never got out of order; and she never had to slack up for words. She could grind, and pump, and churn and buzz by the week, and never stop to oil up or blow out. And yet the result was just nothing but wind. She never had any ideas, any more than a fog has. She was a perfect blatherskite; I mean for jaw, jaw, jaw, talk, talk, talk, jabber, jabber, jabber; but just as good as she could be. I hadn't minded her mill that morning, on account of having that hornet's nest of other troubles; but more than once in the afternoon I had to say – "Take a rest, child; the way you are using up all the domestic air, the Kingdom will have to go to importing it by tomorrow, and it's a low enough treasury without that." (Chapter 12)

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 Gradually, as the time wore along, one annoying fact was borne in upon my understanding – that we were
- 2 weather-bound. An armed novice cannot mount his horse without help and plenty of it. Sandy was not
- 3 enough – not enough for me, anyway. We had to wait until somebody should come along. Waiting, in silence,

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16 than a fog has. She was a perfect blatherskite; I mean for jaw, jaw, jaw, talk, talk, talk, jabber, jabber, jabber;
17 but just as good as she could be. I hadn't minded her mill that morning, on account of having that hornet's nest
18 of other troubles; but more than once in the afternoon I had to say –
19 “Take a rest, child; the way you are using up all the domestic air, the Kingdom will have to go to importing it
20 by tomorrow, and it's a low enough treasury without that.”

- ___1. The underlined words in Line 9 are an example of . . .
 a. assonance b. consonance c. alliteration d. rhyme
- ___2. Line 11 contains two examples of . . .
 a. metaphor b. simile c. personification d. allusion
- ___3. In Line 12, the word *clack* most likely means ALL of the following EXCEPT . . .
 a. voice b. mouth c. conversation d. face

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