



The Grammar Dog Guide to Sensory Imagery in Dickens

**All quizzes use sentences from six novels.
Includes over 145 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.



Gramwardog.com LLC
P.O. Box 299
Christoval, Texas 76935
Phone: 325-896-2479
Fax: 325-896-2676
fifi@gramwardog.com

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ISBN 978-1-60857-210-6

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***SENSORY IMAGERY* in Charles Dickens**

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SENSORY IMAGERY in Charles Dickens

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

EXERCISE 1 STYLE: SENSORY IMAGERY

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

a. sight b. sound c. touch d. taste e. smell

- ___ 1. It was cold, bleak, biting weather, foggy withal, and he could hear the people in the court outside go wheezing up and down, beating their hands upon their breasts, and stamping their feet upon the pavement stones to warm them.
- ___ 2. He had so heated himself with rapid walking in the fog and frost, this nephew of Scrooge's, that he was all in a glow; his face was ruddy and handsome; his eyes sparkled, and his breath smoked again.
- ___ 3. But there was nothing on the back of the door, except the screws and nuts that held the knocker on, so he said, "Pooh, pooh!" and closed it with a bang.
- ___ 4. Marley, in his pigtail, usual waistcoat, tights and boots; the tassels on the latter bristling like his pigtail, and his coat-skirts, and the hair upon his head.
- ___ 5. The Ghost, on hearing this, set up another cry, and clanked his chain so hideously in the dead silence of the night, that the Ward would have been justified in indicting it for a nuisance.
- ___ 6. He was obliged to rub the frost off with the sleeve of his dressing-gown before he could see anything; and could see very little then.
- ___ 7. It wore a tunic of the purest white; and round its waist was bound a lustrous belt, the sheen of which was beautiful.
- ___ 8. He was conscious of a thousand odors floating in the air, each one connected with a thousand thoughts, and hopes, and joys, and cares long, long forgotten!
- ___ 9. The Spirit touched him on the arm, and pointed to his younger self, intent upon his reading.
- ___ 10. This idea taking full possession of his mind, he got up softly, and shuffled in his slippers to the door.
- ___ 11. The walls and ceiling were so hung with living green that it looked a perfect grove; from every part of which bright, gleaming berries glistened.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

EXERCISE 1 STYLE: SENSORY IMAGERY

- ___ 12. The sky was gloomy, and the shortest streets were choked up with a dingy mist, half thawed, half frozen, whose heavier particles descended in a shower of sooty atoms, as if all the chimneys in Great Britain had, by one consent, caught fire, and were blazing away to their dear hearts' content.
- ___ 13. A cat was tearing at the door, and there was a sound of gnawing rats beneath the hearthstone.
- ___ 14. His active little crutch was heard upon the floor, and back came Tiny Tim before another word was spoken, escorted by his brother and sister . . .
- ___ 15. The pudding was out of the copper. A smell like a washing-day! That was the cloth.
- ___ 16. The compound in the jug being tasted, and considered perfect, apples and oranges were put upon the table, and a shovelful of chestnuts on the fire.
- ___ 17. Scrooge's nephew reveled in another laugh, and as it was impossible to keep the infection off, though the plump sister tried hard to do it with aromatic vinegar, his example was unanimously followed.
- ___ 18. The moment Scrooge's hand was on the lock, a strange voice called him by his name, and bade him enter. He obeyed.
- ___ 19. Alleys and archways, like so many cesspools, disgorged their offenses of smell, and dirt, and life, upon the struggling streets; and the whole quarter reeked with crime, with filth and misery.
- ___ 20. Mrs. Cratchit kissed him, his daughters kissed him, the two young Cratchits kissed him, and Peter and himself shook hands.

SENSORY IMAGERY in Charles Dickens

A TALE OF TWO CITIES

EXERCISE 2 STYLE: SENSORY IMAGERY

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

a. sight b. sound c. touch d. taste e. smell

- _____ 1. A clammy and intensely cold mist, it made its slow way through the air in ripples that visibly followed and overspread one another, as the waves of an unwholesome sea might do.
- _____ 2. It was dense enough to shut out everything from the light of the coach-lamps but these its own workings and a few yards of road; and the reek of the labouring horses steamed into it, as if they had made it all.
- _____ 3. The rattle of the harness was the chink of money, and more drafts were honoured in five minutes than even Tellson's, with all its foreign and home connexion, ever paid in thrice the time.
- _____ 4. The mildewy inside of the coach, with its damp and dirty straw, its disagreeable smell, and its obscurity, was rather like a larger dog-kennel.
- _____ 5. The air among the houses was of so strong a piscatory flavour that one might have supposed sick fish went up to be dipped in it, as sick people went down to be dipped into the sea.
- _____ 6. It was a large, dark room, furnished in a funereal manner with black horsehair, and loaded with heavy dark tables.
- _____ 7. Mr. Lorry took the hesitating little hand that confidently advanced to take his, and he put it with some ceremony to his lips.
- _____ 8. And she caught his wrist with both her hands.
- _____ 9. A shrill sound of laughter and of amused voices – voices of men, women, and children – resounded in the street while this wine game lasted.
- _____ 10. A narrow winding street, full of offence and stench, with other narrow winding streets diverging, all peopled by rags and nightcaps, and all smelling of rags and nightcaps . . .
- _____ 11. When this interchange of Christian name was effected, Madame Defarge, picking her teeth with her toothpick, coughed another grain of cough, and raised her eyebrows by the breadth of another line.

A TALE OF TWO CITIES

EXERCISE 2 STYLE: SENSORY IMAGERY

- _____ 12. Each of these stoppages was made at a doleful grating, by which any languishing good airs that were left uncorrupted seemed to escape, and all spoilt and sickly vapours seemed to crawl in.
- _____ 13. He had a white beard, raggedly cut, but not very long, a hollow face, and exceedingly bright eyes.
- _____ 14. He recoiled, but she laid her hand upon his arm.
- _____ 15. Looking his companion full in the face while he drank the toast, Carton flung his glass over his shoulder against the wall, where it shivered to pieces; then rang the bell and ordered in another.
- _____ 16. Gradually, it subsided to a foot pace, swinging and lumbering upward among the many sweet scents of a summer night.
- _____ 17. Other sound than the owl's voice there was none, save the falling of the fountain into its stone basin . . .
- _____ 18. Mr. Stryver sucked the end of a ruler for a little while, and then stood hitting a tune out of his teeth with it, which probably gave him the toothache.
- _____ 19. The spy, well used to his business, did not change his unconscious attitude, but drained his little glass of cognac, took a sip of fresh water, and asked for another glass of cognac.
- _____ 20. Darkness closed around, and then came the ringing of church bells and the distant beating of the military drums in the Palace Court-Yard . . .
- _____ 21. She drew closer to him, and kissed his cheek and his hand.
- _____ 22. The prison of La Force was a gloomy prison, dark and filthy, and with a horrible smell of foul sleep in it.
- _____ 23. It was put before him, and he drank off a glassful – drank off another glassful – pushed the bottle thoughtfully away.
- _____ 24. Houses in twos and threes pass by us, solitary farms, ruinous building, dye-works, tanneries, and the like, open country, avenues of leafless trees.
- _____ 25. Along the Paris streets, the death-carts rumble hollow and harsh.

SENSORY IMAGERY in Charles Dickens

DAVID COPPERFIELD

EXERCISE 3 STYLE: SENSORY IMAGERY

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

a. sight b. sound c. touch d. taste e. smell

- ___ 1. As slumber gradually stole upon me, I heard the wind howling out at sea and coming on across the flat so fiercely, that I had a lazy apprehension of the great deep rising in the night.
- ___ 2. He was a twinkling-eyed, pimple-faced man, with his hair standing upright all over his head.
- ___ 3. I sat down to my brown loaf, my egg, and my rasher of bacon, with a basin of milk besides, and made a most delicious meal.
- ___ 4. There is a strange unwholesome smell upon the room, like mildewed corduroys, sweet apples wanting air, and rotten books.
- ___ 5. Peggotty's promised letter . . . arrived . . . and with it a cake in a perfect nest of oranges, and two bottles of cowslip wine.
- ___ 6. What intolerable dullness to sit listening to the ticking of the clock.
- ___ 7. She sat down by my side upon my little bed; and holding my hand, and sometimes putting it to her lips, and sometimes smoothing it with hers, as she might have comforted my little brother . . .
- ___ 8. He was so polite as to stop at a public-house, expressly on our account, and entertain us with broiled mutton and beer.
- ___ 9. Behold me, on the morrow, in a much-worn little white hat, with a black crape round it for my mother, a black jacket, and a pair of hard stiff corduroy trousers.
- ___ 10. When I had money enough, I used to get half-a-pint of ready-made coffee and a slice of bread and butter.
- ___ 11. Mr. Micawber pressed my hand, and groaned, and afterwards shed tears.
- ___ 12. On the last Sunday, they invited me to dinner; and we had a loin of pork and apple sauce, and a pudding.
- ___ 13. To make his example the more impressive, Mr. Micawber drank a glass of punch with an air of great enjoyment and satisfaction, and whistled the College Hornpipe.

SENSORY IMAGERY in Charles Dickens

DAVID COPPERFIELD

EXERCISE 3 STYLE: SENSORY IMAGERY

- ___ 14. It was by this time dark; I heard the clocks strike ten, as I sat resting.
- ___ 15. He was a dreadful old man to look at, in a filthy flannel waistcoat, and smelling terribly of rum.
- ___ 16. But then, strange to say, when I stood with my ragged shoes, and my dusty, sunburned, half-clothed figure, in the place so long desired, it seemed to vanish like a dream, and to leave me helpless and dispirited.
- ___ 17. We dined soon after I awoke, off a roast fowl and a pudding.
- ___ 18. But oh, what a clammy hand his was! as ghostly to the touch as to the sight!
- ___ 19. I know it was near the bar, on account of the smell of spirits and jingling of glasses.
- ___ 20. She had black hair and eager black eyes, and was thin, and had a scar upon her lip.
- ___ 21. Mr. Peggotty ruffled his hair again with both hands, as a further preparation for what he was going to say, and went on, with a hand upon each of his knees.
- ___ 22. I never saw a man so thoroughly enjoy himself amid the fragrance of lemon-peel and sugar, the odor of burning rum, and the steam of boiling water, as Mr. Micawber did that afternoon.
- ___ 23. All this time he was squeezing my hand with his damp fishy fingers, while I made every effort I decently could to get it away.
- ___ 24. They had gone rustling away as if their little dresses were made of autumn leaves.
- ___ 25. Upon a mellow autumn day, about noon, when the ground was perfumed by fallen leaves, and many more, in beautiful tints of yellow, red, and brown, yet hung upon the trees, through which the sun was shining, I arrived at Highgate.

SENSORY IMAGERY in Charles Dickens

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

EXERCISE 4 STYLE: SENSORY IMAGERY

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

a. sight b. sound c. touch d. taste e. smell

- ___ 1. Joe was a fair man, with curls of flaxen hair on each side of his smooth face, and with eyes of such a very undecided blue that they seemed to have somehow got mixed with their own whites.
- ___ 2. He was gobbling mincemeat, meatbone, bread, cheese, and pork pie all at once, staring distrustfully while he did so at the mist all round us, and often stopping -- even stopping his jaws -- to listen.
- ___ 3. I got a dreadful start when I thought I heard the file still going; but it was only a sheep bell.
- ___ 4. With these words he released me -- which I was glad of, for his hand smelt of scented soap -- and went his way downstairs.
- ___ 5. I heard the mice too, rattling behind the panels, as if the same occurrence were important to their interests.
- ___ 6. He was prematurely bald on top of his head, and had bushy black eyebrows that wouldn't lie down, but stood up bristling.
- ___ 7. These crawling things had fascinated my attention, and I was watching them from a distance, when Miss Havisham laid a hand upon my shoulder.
- ___ 8. I kissed her cheek as she turned it to me.
- ___ 9. When she had exhausted a torrent of such inquiries, she threw a candlestick at Joe, burst into a loud sobbing, got out the dustpan -- which was always a very bad sign -- put on her coarse apron, and began cleaning up to a terrible extent.
- ___ 10. He was a broad-shouldered loose-limbed swarthy fellow of great strength, never in a hurry and always slouching.
- ___ 11. Beyond town, we found a heavy mist out, and it fell wet and thick.
- ___ 12. Then she softly patted my shoulder in a soothing way, while with my face upon my sleeve I cried a little -- exactly as I had done in the brewery-yard . . .

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

EXERCISE 4 STYLE: SENSORY IMAGERY

- ___ 13. Joe laid his hand upon my shoulder with the touch of a woman.
- ___ 14. She stretched out her hand, and I went down on my knee and put it to my lips.
- ___ 15. . . . and so I left my fairy godmother, with both her hands on her crutch stick, standing in the midst of the dimly lighted room beside the rotten bride-cake that was hidden by cobwebs.
- ___ 16. Fantastic failures of journeys occupied me until the day dawned and birds were singing.
- ___ 17. I smelt the smoke of the kitchen when I started up with a terrible idea that it must be late in the afternoon.
- ___ 18. Here we found a gentleman with one eye, in a velveteen suit and knee-breeches, who wiped his nose with his sleeve on being interrupted in the perusal of the newspaper.
- ___ 19. He had glittering eyes – small, keen, and black – and thin wide mottled lips.
- ___ 20. They had been treating their guard, I suppose, for they had a gaoler with them, and all three came out wiping their mouths on their hands.
- ___ 21. I heard the side door open, and steps come across the court-yard, but I pretended not to hear, even when the gate swung on its rusty hinges.
- ___ 22. He held it between himself and the candle, tasted the port, rolled it in his mouth, swallowed it, looked at his glass again, smelt the port, tried it, drank it, filled again, and cross-examined the glass again . . .
- ___ 23. The air of the parlour being faint with the smell of sweet cake, I looked about for the table of refreshments . . . but there was a cut-up plum-cake upon it, and there were cut-up oranges . . .
- ___ 24. And there my sister was laid quietly in the earth while the larks sang high above it, and the light wind strewed it with beautiful shadows of clouds and trees.
- ___ 25. The lime was burning with a sluggish stifling smell, but the fires were made up and left and no workmen were visible.

SENSORY IMAGERY in Charles Dickens

HARD TIMES

EXERCISE 5 STYLE: SENSORY IMAGERY

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

a. sight b. sound c. touch d. taste e. smell

- ___ 1. His short-cropped hair might have been a mere continuation of the sandy freckles on his forehead and face.
- ___ 2. He went his way, but she stood on the same spot, rubbing the cheek he had kissed, with her handkerchief, until it was burning red.
- ___ 3. . . . they lived upon the best, and bought fresh butter; and insisted on Mocha coffee, and rejected but prime parts of meat, and yet were eternally dissatisfied and unmanageable.
- ___ 4. He was dressed in a Newmarket coat and tight-fitting trousers; wore a shawl round his neck; smelt of lamp-oil, straw, orange-peel, horses' provender, and sawdust . . .
- ___ 5. The basket packed in silence, they brought her bonnet to her, and smoothed her disordered hair, and put it on.
- ___ 6. Louisa saw that she was sobbing, and going to her, kissed her, took her hand, and sat down beside her.
- ___ 7. She turned, being then in the brightness of a lamp; and raising her hood a little, showed a quiet oval face, dark and rather delicate, irradiated by a pair of very gentle eyes, and further set off by the perfect order of her shining black hair.
- ___ 8. She threw herself upon the bed heavily, and soon was snoring hard.
- ___ 9. “You don't expect to be set up in a coach and six, and to be fed on turtle soup and venison, with a gold spoon, as a good many of 'em do!”
- ___ 10. The wind brought the sounds of the church clock to the window. They listened, and it struck three.
- ___ 11. Her brother glanced at her face with greater interest than usual, and, encircling her waist with his arm, drew her coaxingly to him.
- ___ 12. It was another red brick house, with black outside shutters, green inside blinds, a black street-door up two white steps, a brazen door-plate, and a brazen door-handle full-stop.

SENSORY IMAGERY in Charles Dickens

HARD TIMES

EXERCISE 5 STYLE: SENSORY IMAGERY

- ___ 13. Slackbridge likewise sat down, wiping his hot forehead – always from left to right, and never the reverse way.
- ___ 14. The bread was new and crusty, the butter fresh, and the sugar lump . . .
- ___ 15. The rustling of a bank-note was audible, as she unfolded one and laid it on the table.
- ___ 16. Reposing in the sunlight, with the fragrance of his eastern pipe about him, and the dreamy smoke vanishing into the air, so rich and soft with summer odours, he reckoned up his advantages as an idle winner might count his gains.
- ___ 17. “Oh, Sir?” said Mrs. Sparsit. “Not your sherry warm, with lemon-peel and nutmeg?”
- ___ 18. She looked at him, as he struck the table and made the teacups ring, with a proud colour in her face that was a new change, Mr. Harthouse thought.
- ___ 19. “Bitzer,” said Mrs. Sparsit . . . “present my compliments to young Mr. Thomas, and ask him if he would step up and partake of a lamb chop and walnut ketchup, with a glass of India ale?”
- ___ 20. Both listened to the thunder, which was loud, and to the rain, as it washed off the roof, and pattered on the parapets of the arches.
- ___ 21. Fire and steam, and smoke, and red light; a hiss, a crash, a bell, and a shriek; Louisa put into one carriage, Mrs. Sparsit put into another: the little station a desert speck in the thunderstorm.
- ___ 22. Her father’s face was ashy white, and he held her in both his arms.
- ___ 23. He did add it in effect, perhaps, as he softly moved her scattered hair from her forehead with his hand.
- ___ 24. As the rope went out, tight and strained, and the windlass creaked, there was not a breath among the one or two hundred men and women looking on, that came as it was wont to come.
- ___ 25. Louisa and Sissy withdrew into an adjoining room; Mr. Sleary, stirring and drinking his brandy and water as he stood, went on.

SENSORY IMAGERY in Charles Dickens

OLIVER TWIST

EXERCISE 6 STYLE: SENSORY IMAGERY

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

a. sight b. sound c. touch d. taste e. smell

- ___ 1. Oliver Twist's ninth birthday found him a pale thin child, somewhat diminutive in stature, and decidedly small in circumference.
- ___ 2. He had no time to think about the matter, however; for Mr. Bumble gave him a tap on the head, with his cane, to wake him up.
- ___ 3. Oliver, whose eyes had glistened at the mention of meat, and who was trembling with eagerness to devour it, replied in the negative.
- ___ 4. The atmosphere seemed tainted with the smell of coffins.
- ___ 5. For nobody did he see but a big charity-boy, sitting on a post in front of the house, eating a slice of bread and butter.
- ___ 6. The man's face was thin and very pale; his hair and beard were grizzly; his eyes were bloodshot.
- ___ 7. Send some bread – only a loaf of bread and a cup of water.
- ___ 8. The strange boy whistled; and put his arms into his pockets, as far as the big coat-sleeves would let them go.
- ___ 9. The street was very narrow and muddy, and the air was impregnated with filthy odours.
- ___ 10. Upon this, the young gentlemen with the pipes came round him, and shook both his hands very hard.
- ___ 11. Oliver ate his share, and the Jew then mixed him a glass of hot gin-and-water: telling him he must drink it off directly, because another gentleman wanted the tumbler.
- ___ 12. Dragging an old chair to the table, he sat down; and took from it a magnificent gold watch, sparkling with jewels.
- ___ 13. He closed the lid of the box with a loud crash.
- ___ 14. The four sat down to breakfast, on the coffee, and some hot rolls and ham which the Dodger had brought home in the crown of his hat.

OLIVER TWIST

EXERCISE 6 STYLE: SENSORY IMAGERY

- ___ 15. The old gentleman looked almost as rueful as Oliver when the key grated in the lock.
- ___ 16. And Mrs. Bedwin, satisfied that he felt more comfortable, salted and broke bits of toasted bread into the broth, with all the bustle befitting so solemn a preparation.
- ___ 17. He turned from this young lady, who was gaily, not to say gorgeously attired, in a red gown, green boots, and yellow curl-papers, to the other female.
- ___ 18. Entering by the back way, she tapped softly with the key at one of the cell-doors, and listened.
- ___ 19. There sat, brooding over a little pewter measure and a small glass, strongly impregnated with the smell of liquor, a man in a velveteen coat, drab shorts, half-boots and stockings . . .
- ___ 20. They had hurried on a few paces, when a deep churchbell struck the hour.
- ___ 21. She sank into Mr. Bumble's arms; and that gentleman in his agitation, imprinted a passionate kiss upon her chaste nose.
- ___ 22. The rain came down, thick and fast, and pattered noisily among the leafless bushes.
- ___ 23. The ivy crept round the trunks of the trees; and the garden-flowers perfumed the air with delicious odours.
- ___ 24. "And nobody would never have found it out, if he hadn't been so precious anxious to keep up appearances!" said Mr. Blathers, putting down his wine-glass, and clinking the handcuffs together.
- ___ 25. Fagin laughed; and making some reply which did not reach her, seemed, by the creaking of the boards, to lead his companion to the second story.

***SENSORY IMAGERY* in Charles Dickens**

ANSWER KEY EXERCISES 1 - 6

A CHRISTMAS CAROL - EXERCISE 1:

1. b 2. a 3. b 4. a 5. b 6. c 7. a 8. e 9. c 10. b 11. a
12. a 13. b 14. b 15. e 16. d 17. e 18. c 19. e 20. c

A TALE OF TWO CITIES - EXERCISE 2:

1. c 2. e 3. b 4. e 5. e 6. a 7. c 8. c 9. b 10. e 11. b 12. e 13. a
14. c 15. b 16. e 17. b 18. d 19. d 20. b 21. c 22. e 23. d 24. a 25. b

DAVID COPPERFIELD - EXERCISE 3:

1. b 2. a 3. d 4. e 5. d 6. b 7. c 8. d 9. a 10. d 11. c 12. d 13. d
14. b 15. e 16. a 17. d 18. c 19. b 20. a 21. c 22. e 23. c 24. b 25. e

GREAT EXPECTATIONS - EXERCISE 4:

1. a 2. d 3. b 4. e 5. b 6. a 7. c 8. c 9. b 10. a 11. c 12. c 13. c
14. c 15. a 16. b 17. e 18. a 19. a 20. c 21. b 22. d 23. e 24. b 25. e

HARD TIMES- EXERCISE 5:

1. a 2. c 3. d 4. e 5. c 6. c 7. a 8. b 9. d 10. b 11. c 12. a 13. c
14. d 15. b 16. e 17. d 18. b 19. d 20. b 21. b 22. a 23. c 24. b 25. d

OLIVER TWIST - EXERCISE 6:

1. a 2. c 3. d 4. e 5. d 6. a 7. d 8. b 9. e 10. c 11. d 12. a 13. b
14. d 15. b 16. d 17. a 18. b 19. e 20. b 21. c 22. b 23. e 24. b 25. b