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grammar, style, and proofreading exercises

**The Grammar Dog Guide to  
The Last of the  
Mohicans  
by James Fenimore Cooper**

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

## About Grammartog

Grammartog 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 Grammartog.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.

Grammartog'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 LAST OF THE MOHICANS** by James Fenimore Cooper – Grammar and Style  
*All exercises use sentences from the novel.*

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EXERCISE 1      PARTS OF SPEECH

Identify the parts of speech in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

v = verb

n = noun

adj = adjective

adv = adverb

prep = preposition

pron = pronoun

int = interjection

conj = conjunction

- \_\_\_ 1.      “The blood of chiefs is in my veins, where it must stay forever.”
- \_\_\_ 2.      No exclamation of surprise escaped the father, nor was any question asked, or reply given, for several minutes.
- \_\_\_ 3.      “Ha! There goes something like the cracking of a dry stick, too – now I hear the bushes move.”
- \_\_\_ 4.      They spoke together earnestly in the Delaware language, though in an undertone.
- \_\_\_ 5.      “Though the gray head has a loud voice, and a long arm, Le Renard will not hear him, or feel him, in the woods.”
- \_\_\_ 6.      “Come, friends, let us move our station, and in such a fashion, too, as will throw the cunning of a Mingo on the wrong scent, or our scalps will be drying in the wind in front of Montcalm’s marquee, ag’in this hour tomorrow.”
- \_\_\_ 7.      “If Webb wants faith and honesty in an Indian, let him bring out the tribes of the Delawares, and send these greedy and lying Mohawks and Oneidas, with their six nations of varlets, where in nature they belong, among the French!”
- \_\_\_ 8.      At a little distance in advance stood Uncas, his whole person thrown powerfully into view.
- \_\_\_ 9.      He ate and drank with an appetite that no sense of danger could disturb, but his vigilance seemed never to desert him.
- \_\_\_ 10.      A long, breathless silence succeeded, during which each looked at the others in fearful expectation of hearing the sound repeated.
- \_\_\_ 11.      In the center of the little island, a few short and stunted pines had found root, forming a thicket, into which Hawkeye darted with the swiftness of a deer, followed by the active Duncan.
- \_\_\_ 12.      “Hist! look into the water above, just where it breaks over the rocks.”
- \_\_\_ 13.      Cora ceased her entreaties; and, veiling her face in her shawl, drew the nearly insensible Alice after her into the deepest recess of the inner cavern.

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EXERCISE 1      PARTS OF SPEECH

- \_\_\_ 14.      Le Renard had listened gravely as Heyward slowly proceeded in his subtle speech.
- \_\_\_ 15.      It appeared as if the delicate and sensitive form of Alice would shrink into itself, as she listened to this proposal.
- \_\_\_ 16.      Seizing Cora by the rich tresses which fell in confusion about her form, he tore her from her frantic hold, and bowed her down with brutal violence to her knees.
- \_\_\_ 17.      The battle was now entirely terminated, with the exception of the protracted struggle between Le Renard Subtil and Le Gros Serpent.
- \_\_\_ 18.      Chingachgook related to his son, in the language of the Delawares, and with the pride of the conqueror, the brief history of the skirmish which had been fought, in his youth, in that secluded spot.
- \_\_\_ 19.      He then entered the water, and for near an hour they travelled in the bed of the brook, leaving no trail.
- \_\_\_ 20.      More than two thousand raving savages broke from the forest at the signal, and threw themselves across the fatal plain with instinctive alacrity.
- \_\_\_ 21.      Hawkeye slowly shook his head, and beckoned for Duncan to follow him to a spot, to which the glare from the fire did not extend.
- \_\_\_ 22.      It was easy to follow the track of the Narragansetts, but they seemed only to have wandered without guides, or any other object than the pursuit of food.
- \_\_\_ 23.      Hawkeye and the Mohicans now applied themselves to their task in good earnest.
- \_\_\_ 24.      Cora stood foremost among the prisoners, entwining her arms in those of Alice, in the tenderness of sisterly love.
- \_\_\_ 25.      Magua advanced, and seized his captive strongly by the arm.

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**EXERCISE 2      PROOFREADING: SPELLING, CAPITALIZATION, PUNCTUATION**

Read the following passages and decide which type of error, if any, appears in each underlined section.

**PASSAGE 1**

In the midst of this tumult, a triumphant yell  
was raised within a few yards of the hidden  
entrance to the cave Heyward abandoned  
every hope, with the Belief it was the signal that  
they were discovered. Again the impression  
passed away, as he hurd the voices collect near  
the spot where the White man had so reluctantly  
abandoned his rifle. (Chapter IX)

- \_\_\_ 1. a. Spelling  
b. Capitalization  
c. Punctuation  
d. No error
- \_\_\_ 2. a. Spelling  
b. Capitalization  
c. Punctuation  
d. No error
- \_\_\_ 3. a. Spelling  
b. Capitalization  
c. Punctuation  
d. No error
- \_\_\_ 4. a. Spelling  
b. Capitalization  
c. Punctuation  
d. No error
- \_\_\_ 5. a. Spelling  
b. Capitalization  
c. Punctuation  
d. No error
- \_\_\_ 6. a. Spelling  
b. Capitalization  
c. Punctuation  
d. No error

**PASSAGE 2**

there were now a few minutes of fearful stillness,  
during which heyward well knew that the savages  
conducted their saerch with greater vigilance and  
method More than once he could distinguish their  
footsteps, as they brushed the sassafras, causing  
the faded leaves to rustle, and the branches to snap.  
At length, the pile yielded a little, a corner of the  
blanket fell, and a faint ray of light gleemed into the  
inner part of the cave. (Chapter IX)

- \_\_\_ 1. a. Spelling  
b. Capitalization  
c. Punctuation  
d. No error
- \_\_\_ 2. a. Spelling  
b. Capitalization  
c. Punctuation  
d. No error
- \_\_\_ 3. a. Spelling  
b. Capitalization  
c. Punctuation  
d. No error
- \_\_\_ 4. a. Spelling  
b. Capitalization  
c. Punctuation  
d. No error
- \_\_\_ 5. a. Spelling  
b. Capitalization  
c. Punctuation  
d. No error
- \_\_\_ 6. a. Spelling  
b. Capitalization  
c. Punctuation  
d. No error