

Grammar Study Materials for "A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings"

The material includes explanations, examples from the text, and exercises to reinforce understanding.

1. Descriptive Adjectives

Explanation: Descriptive adjectives describe or modify a noun, indicating its quality, quantity, or extent. They add detail and vividness to writing, helping to create a clear image in the reader's mind.

Examples from the Text:

- "The light was **weak**, even at noon." (Describes the quality of the light)
- "His **huge** buzzard wings, **dirty** and **half-plucked**, were entangled in the mud." (Describes the size and condition of the wings)
- "He answered in an **incomprehensible** dialect with a **strong** sailor's voice." (Describes the dialect and voice)

Exercise:

1. Identify the descriptive adjectives in the following sentences from the text:
 - "His **pitiful** condition seemed that of a **drenched** great-grandfather."
 - "The courtyard had the **bustle** of a **marketplace**."
2. Write three sentences about the old man using descriptive adjectives to describe his appearance or behavior.
3. Choose a character from the story (e.g., PRO or the angel) and describe them using at least two descriptive adjectives in a sentence.

Answer Key for Exercise 1:

- Sentence 1: pitiful, drenched
- Sentence 2: bustle, marketplace

2. Past Perfect Tense

Explanation: The past perfect tense (had + past participle) is used to describe an action that was completed before another action in the past. It establishes a sequence of events in storytelling.

Examples from the Text:

- "Pelayo **had gone** very close to see what it was." (Action completed before seeing the old man)
- "They **had crammed** their rooms with money." (Action completed before the narrative point)

Exercise:

1. Identify the past perfect tense in the following sentence:
 - "In less than a week they **had crammed** their rooms with money."

2. Rewrite the following sentences using the past perfect tense:
 - Pelayo locked the old man in the chicken coop. (Before going to bed)
 - The child woke up without a fever. (After a short time)
3. Write two sentences about the story using the past perfect tense to show the sequence of events.

Answer Key for Exercise 1:

- had crammed

3. Passive Voice

Explanation: The passive voice emphasizes the action or the object receiving the action rather than the doer. It is formed using a form of "to be" + past participle (e.g., was locked, were tossed).

Examples from the Text:

- "A flesh-and-blood angel **was held** captive in Pelayo's house." (Focus on the angel)
- "Things **were tossed** to him through the openings in the coop." (Focus on the things)
- "He **was knocked** down by the rain." (Focus on the action)

Exercise:

1. Identify the passive voice in the following sentence:
 - "The news of the captive angel **was spread** with great rapidity."
2. Rewrite these sentences in the passive voice:
 - The crowd tossed food to the old man.
 - Pelayo and Elisenda charged five cents for admission.
3. Write two sentences in the passive voice describing actions done to the old man in the story.

Answer Key for Exercise 1:

- was spread

4. Prepositional Phrases

Explanation: Prepositional phrases begin with a preposition (e.g., in, with, at) and function as adjectives or adverbs, providing additional information about place, time, or manner.

****Examples from Pelayo and Elisenda were happy **with fatigue**.**" (Describes the manner of happiness)

- "The curious came **from far away**." (Describes the origin of the curious)
- "He was lying **face down in the mud**." (Describes position and location)

Exercise:

1. Identify the prepositional phrases in the following sentences:

- "He was lying **face down in the mud.**"
 - "They found the whole neighbourhood **in front of the chicken coop.**"
2. Write three sentences about the story, each containing a prepositional phrase describing place, time, or manner.
 3. Underline the prepositional phrases in your sentences from question 2.

Answer Key for Exercise 1:

- Sentence 1: face down, in the mud
- Sentence 2: in front of the chicken coop

5. Complex Sentences

Explanation: A complex sentence contains one independent clause and at least one dependent clause, often introduced by subordinating conjunctions like "when," "although," or "because."

Examples from the Text:

- "**When Pelayo was coming back to the house**, it was hard for him to see what was moving."
(Dependent clause: When Pelayo was coming back to the house)
- "**Although he was a supernatural creature**, they treated him like a circus animal."
(Dependent clause: Although he was a supernatural creature)
- "**Because the admission fee was lower**, people flocked to see the spider woman."
(Dependent clause: Because the admission fee was lower)

Exercise:

1. Identify the dependent clause in the following sentence:
 - "**When the child began school**, the sun and rain had caused the collapse of the chicken coop."
2. Combine the following pairs of sentences into a single complex sentence using the given subordinating conjunction:
 - The angel was old. He couldn't fly well. (because)
 - The crowd gathered. They heard about the angel. (after)
3. Write two complex sentences about the story, using different subordinating conjunctions (e.g., when, although, because).

Answer Key for Exercise 1:

- Dependent clause: When the child began school

Practice Worksheet

Instructions: Complete the following exercises to practice the grammar elements.

1. **Descriptive Adjectives:**

- Write a paragraph describing the old man's appearance and condition using at least five descriptive adjectives.

2. **Past Perfect Tense:**

- Rewrite the following in the past perfect tense:
 - The couple built a mansion. (Before the angel left)
 - The child played in the coop. (Before getting chicken pox)

3. **Passive Voice:**

- Convert these sentences to passive voice:
 - The doctor examined the angel's heart.
 - The neighbours called the old man an angel.

4. **Prepositional Phrases:**

- Write three sentences about the story, each with a different prepositional phrase (e.g., with patience, at dawn, in the courtyard).

5. **Complex Sentences:**

- Write a paragraph about the angel's experience in the village, using at least three complex sentences with different subordinating conjunctions.

Answer Key for Worksheet (Sample answers):

1. The old man was **frail, weathered, and mysterious**, with **enormous, tattered** wings that seemed out of place on his **human** body.
2. The couple **had built** a mansion before the angel left.
 - The child **had played** in the coop before getting chicken pox.
3. The angel's heart **was examined** by the doctor.
 - The old man **was called** an angel by the neighbours.
4. The angel sat **with patience** in the chicken coop.
 - The crowd gathered **at dawn** to see the strange creature.
 - Pelayo found the old man **in the courtyard** groaning in the mud.
5. Sample paragraph: **Although the old man was considered an angel**, he was treated poorly by the crowd. **When he first arrived in the village**, Pelayo and Elisenda were unsure of his nature. **Because he displayed such patience**, the doctor found his presence intriguing.