

*MOBY DICK* by Herman Melville – Grammar and Style

EXERCISE 6            PHRASES

Identify the phrases in each of the following sentences. Label the underlined words as either:  
participle = par.      gerund = ger.      infinitive = infin.      appositive = appos.      preposition = prep.

- \_\_\_\_ 1.      I love to sail forbidden seas, and land on barbarous coasts.
- \_\_\_\_ 2.      Quitting the good city of old Manhatto, I duly arrived in New Bedford.
- \_\_\_\_ 3.      I learnt that there were three ships up for three-years' voyages – The Devil-dam, the Tit-bit, and the Pequod.
- \_\_\_\_ 4.      “Mark ye, be forewarned; Ahab’s above the common; Ahab’s been in colleges, as well as ‘mong the cannibals; been used to deeper wonders than the waves; fixed his fiery lance in mightier, stranger foes than whales.”
- \_\_\_\_ 5.      On the day following Queequeg’s signing the articles, word was given at all the inns where the ship’s company were stopping, that their chests must be on board before night, for there was no telling how soon the vessel might be sailing.
- \_\_\_\_ 6.      Chief among those who did this fetching and carrying was Captain Bildad’s sister, a lean old lady of a most determined and indefatigable spirit.
- \_\_\_\_ 7.      I was going to ask him some further questions concerning Ahab, when we heard a noise on deck.
- \_\_\_\_ 8.      The chief mate of the Pequod was Starbuck, a native of Nantucket, and a Quaker by descent.
- \_\_\_\_ 9.      For, thought Starbuck, I am here in this critical ocean to kill whales for my living, and not to be killed by them for theirs; and that hundreds of men had been so killed Starbuck well knew.
- \_\_\_\_ 10.      He looked like a man cut away from the stake, when the fire has overrunningly wasted all the limbs without consuming them, or taking away one particle from their compacted aged robustness.
- \_\_\_\_ 11.      But after that morning, he was every day visible to the crew; either standing in his pivot-hole, or seated upon an ivory stool he had; or heavily walking the deck.
- \_\_\_\_ 12.      Among sea-commanders, the old graybeards will oftenest leave their berths to visit the night-cloaked deck.

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- \_\_\_\_\_ 13.     Lighting the pipe at the binnacle lamp and planting the stool on the weather side of the deck, he sat and smoked.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14.     Now, the grand distinction drawn between officer and man at sea, is this – the first lives aft, the last forward.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15.     Steering north-eastward from the Crozetts, we fell in with vast meadows of brit, the minute, yellow substance, upon which the Right Whale largely feeds.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16.     Consider the subtleness of the sea; how its most dreaded creatures glide under water, unapparent for the most part, and treacherously hidden beneath the loveliest tints of azure.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17.     Consider, once more, the universal cannibalism of the sea; all whose creatures prey upon each other, carrying on eternal war since the world began.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18.     The next day was exceedingly still and sultry, and with nothing special to engage them, the Pequod's crew could hardly resist the spell induced by such a vacant sea.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 19.     It should not have been omitted that previous to completely stripping the body of the leviathan, he was beheaded.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 20.     It turned out that the Jeroboam had a malignant epidemic on board, and that Mayhew, her captain, was fearful of infecting the Pequod's company.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 21.     Crossing the deck, let us now have a good long look at the Right Whale's head.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 22.     To cross to the other side of the deck was like walking up the steep gabled roof of a house.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 23.     Besides her hoisted boats, an American whaler is outwardly distinguished by her try-works.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 24.     It were perhaps vain to surmise exactly why it was, that as respecting Starbuck, Ahab thus acted.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 25.     With oars apeak, and paddles down, the sheets of their sails adrift, the three boats now stilly floated, awaiting Moby Dick's reappearance.