

Grammar Study Materials for "In the Attic"

This study material covers key grammar elements identified in the chapter "In the Attic" by Władysław Szpilman. Each section includes an explanation, examples from the text, and exercises to practice the concepts.

1. Tenses (Past Simple, Past Perfect, and Present Simple)

Explanation

- **Past Simple:** Used for actions completed in the past at a specific time (e.g., "I played").
- **Past Perfect:** Describes actions that were completed before another past action (e.g., "I had not practised").
- **Present Simple:** Used for general statements or facts, often in dialogue to express current feelings or states (e.g., "I am").

Examples from the Text

- **Past Simple:** "I slumped on the chair by the larder door." (Page 1)
- **Past Perfect:** "I hadn't practised for two and half years." (Page 2)
- **Present Simple:** "I'm a pianist." (Page 1)

Exercises

1. **Identify the Tense:** Read the following sentences from the text and identify the tense used.
 - "He inspected the attic and discovered something I had not yet noticed." (Page 2)
 - "I can't leave this place." (Page 2)
 - "I had been racking my brains for some way of showing him my gratitude." (Page 4)

Answers:

- Past Simple
 - Present Simple
 - Past Perfect
2. **Fill in the Blanks:** Use the correct form of the verb in brackets to complete the sentences.
 - Szpilman ____ (hide) in the attic before the officer ____ (find) him. (Past Perfect, Past Simple)
 - The officer ____ (say) he ____ (be) ashamed of being German. (Past Simple, Present Simple)
 - By the time the war ended, Szpilman ____ (survive) for over five years. (Past Perfect)

Answers:

- had hidden, found

- said, is
- had survived

3. **Rewrite Sentences:** Rewrite the following sentences in the past perfect tense.

- Szpilman plays Chopin's Nocturne. (He ____ before the officer arrived.)
- The officer brings food. (He ____ before Szpilman thanked him.)

Answers:

- had played
- had brought

2. Direct and Indirect Speech

Explanation

- **Direct Speech:** Reports exact words spoken, enclosed in quotation marks (e.g., "I'm a pianist.").
- **Indirect Speech:** Paraphrases what was said without quotation marks (e.g., He said that he was a pianist.).

Examples from the Text

- **Direct Speech:** "I've no intention of doing anything to you!" the officer said. (Page 1)
- **Indirect Speech:** He told me that he had no intention of doing anything to me. (Paraphrased from Page 1)
- **Direct Speech:** "You're Jewish?" he asked. (Page 2)

Exercises

1. **Convert to Indirect Speech:** Change the following direct speech sentences from the text into indirect speech.
 - "What do you do for a living?" (Page 1)
 - "Are you German?" (Page 2)
 - "Don't shoot! I'm Polish!" (Page 6)

Answers:

- He asked me what I did for a living.
 - I asked him if he was German.
 - I shouted that they shouldn't shoot because I was Polish.
2. **Convert to Direct Speech:** Rewrite the following indirect speech sentences as direct speech.
 - The officer told Szpilman that he could play the piano. (Page 2)

- Szpilman said that he couldn't leave the place. (Page 2)

Answers:

- "You can play," the officer said.
- "I can't leave this place," Szpilman said.

3. **Mixed Practice:** Write one sentence in direct speech and its equivalent in indirect speech based on the following situation: Szpilman thanks the officer for the food.

Sample Answer:

- Direct: "Thank you for bringing me food," Szpilman said.
- Indirect: Szpilman thanked the officer for bringing him food.

3. Relative Clauses**Explanation**

- **Relative Clauses:** Provide additional information about a noun, introduced by relative pronouns like who, which, or that (e.g., "a loft made of boards").
- **Defining Relative Clauses:** Essential to the meaning of the sentence (no commas).
- **Non-defining Relative Clauses:** Add extra information (set off by commas).

Examples from the Text

- **Defining Relative Clause:** "A loft made of boards directly above the entrance to the attic." (Page 2)
- **Non-defining Relative Clause:** "Wilm Hosenfeld, the soldier who saved Władysław Szpilman, also saved many other individuals." (Page 7)

Exercises

1. **Identify the Type:** Determine whether the relative clause in each sentence is defining or non-defining.
- "The officer, who was German, helped Szpilman." (Page 2, adapted)
 - "The attic where Szpilman hid was cold and dark." (Page 4, adapted)

Answers:

- Non-defining
- Defining

2. **Combine Sentences:** Use a relative clause to combine the following pairs of sentences.
- The officer brought food. The officer was German.
 - Szpilman played the piano. The piano was in the next room.

Answers:

- The officer, who was German, brought food.
 - Szpilman played the piano, which was in the next room.
3. **Write Sentences:** Write one sentence with a defining relative clause and one with a non-defining relative clause about Szpilman's experience.

Sample Answers:

- Defining: The hiding place that Szpilman chose was well-concealed.
- Non-defining: Szpilman, who was a pianist, survived the war.

4. Adjectives and Adverbs

Explanation

- **Adjectives:** Describe nouns (e.g., "gloomy silence").
- **Adverbs:** Modify verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs, often ending in -ly (e.g., "he murmured").

Examples from the Text

- **Adjectives:** "The silence seemed gloomy and eerie." (Page 2)
- **Adverbs:** "He almost shouted his answer in agitation." (Page 2)
- **Adjective:** "A harsh, loud German noise." (Page 2)

Exercises

1. **Identify Adjectives and Adverbs:** Pick out the adjectives and adverbs in the following sentences from the text.
- "The voice in the dark sounded impatient." (Page 3)
 - "His voice sounded harsh, almost as if he were giving an order." (Page 3)

Answers:

- Adjective: impatient; Adverb: none
 - Adjectives: harsh; Adverbs: almost
2. **Fill in the Blanks:** Choose the correct adjective or adverb to complete the sentences.
- The attic was ____ (dark/darkly) and cold.
 - Szpilman played the piano ____ (beautiful/beautifully) despite his fear.

Answers:

- dark
- beautifully

3. **Transform Sentences:** Change the adjective to an adverb or vice versa in the following sentences.

- The officer was quick to help. (Adverb)
- Szpilman spoke in a hopeful tone. (Adjective)

Answers:

- The officer helped quickly.
- Szpilman's tone was hope.

5. Conditional Sentences

Explanation

- **Zero Conditional:** General facts (If + present simple, present simple).
- **First Conditional:** Real possibilities (If + present simple, will + base verb).
- **Second Conditional:** Unreal or hypothetical situations (If + past simple, would + base verb).

Examples from the Text

- **Second Conditional:** "If you and I have survived this inferno for over five years, it's obviously God's will for us to live." (Page 4, adapted as conditional)
- **First Conditional (implied):** "If anyone comes, you can hide in the larder." (Page 2)

Exercises

1. **Match the Conditional Type:** Identify whether the following sentences are zero, first, or second conditionals.
 - If Szpilman stays hidden, he will survive. (Adapted)
 - If people are kind, wars end. (General)
 - If I were Szpilman, I would feel grateful. (Adapted)

Answers:

- First
- Zero
- Second

2. **Complete the Sentences:** Finish the conditional sentences based on the text.

- If Szpilman ____ (not hide) in the attic, he ____ (be) caught.
- If the officer ____ (visit) again, he ____ (bring) more food.

Answers:

- hadn't hidden, would have been

- visits, will bring

3. **Write Conditionals:** Write one sentence each for zero, first, and second conditionals about Szpilman's situation.

Sample Answers:

- Zero: If people hide during wars, they avoid danger.
- First: If Szpilman escapes, he will return to Polish Radio.
- Second: If Szpilman had left the attic, he would have been caught.

6. Prepositions

Explanation

- **Prepositions:** Show relationships between nouns/pronouns and other words (e.g., in, on, at, above).
- Common uses: place (in the attic), time (on 12 December), direction (to a village).

Examples from the Text

- **Place:** "In the attic." (Page 2)
- **Time:** "On 12 December." (Page 4)
- **Direction:** "To a village." (Page 2)

Exercises

1. **Choose the Correct Preposition:** Fill in the blanks with the correct preposition (in, on, at, above, to).
 - Szpilman hid ____ the loft ____ the attic entrance.
 - The officer came back ____ three days.
 - He wanted to take Szpilman ____ a safer place.

Answers:

- in, above
- after
- to

2. **Correct the Sentence:** Identify and correct the wrong preposition in each sentence.
 - Szpilman stayed on the attic for weeks. (Page 2, adapted)
 - The officer shouted to agitation. (Page 2, adapted)

Answers:

- in the attic

- in agitation

3. **Write Sentences:** Write three sentences using prepositions of place, time, and direction based on the chapter.

Sample Answers:

- Place: Szpilman lived in the attic to stay safe.
- Time: The officer visited on 12 December.
- Direction: He wanted to escape to a village.

Additional Notes

- Practice these grammar elements by writing short paragraphs summarizing Szpilman's experiences, incorporating the targeted structures.
- Discuss sentences from the text in class to identify more examples of these grammar elements.