Romeo and Juliet

William Shakespeare

List of the grammar structures per level

BEGINNER • A1 (*Breakthrough*)

Nouns, short compound nouns, common adjectives, be, have, can, must, countable/uncountable nouns, articles, will future, imperative, basic prepositions of time and place, adverbs, numbers, some/any/no, personal pronouns, possessive adjectives/pronouns, 's, demonstrative adjectives/pronouns, present progressive, present simple, simple wh-questions, was/were.

ELEMENTARY • A2 (*Waystage*)

Structures of preceding level + *longer compound nouns, past simple, past progressive, present perfect simple, could, future with going to/present progressive, some/any/no/every+compounds, comparatives, superlatives, quantifiers (a lot, much/many, a little/a few), conditional sentences (type 1), have to, less common prepositions of time and place, may, simple forms of passive, that/who/which (relative pronouns), would you like/shall we?*

PRE-INTERMEDIATE • B1 (*Threshold*)

Structures of preceding levels + *defining/non-defining relative clauses, don't have to/needn't, each other/one another, had to, might/could, should, ought to, question tags, common phrasal verbs, past perfect, more complex forms of passive, present perfect simple and progressive, for/since, reported questions/imperatives, conditional sentences (type 2), reflexive pronouns, will (offer), used to.*

INTERMEDIATE • B2 (*Vantage*)

Structures of preceding levels + *had better, have+object+past participle, less common phrasal verbs, indirect questions, have/make/let/get+object+ infinitive, past perfect simple and progressive, conditional sentences (type 3), be used to, verbs of perception, wish, would rather, be able/likely to, so/neither, gerund and infinitive.*

POST-INTERMEDIATE • C1 (*Effectiveness*)

Structures of preceding levels + *idioms, other uncommon phrasal verbs, future progressive, future perfect, past conditional, inversion.*

RAINBOWS

William Shakespeare

Romeo and Juliet

Adaptation, dossiers and activities
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edisco

Romeo and Juliet

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Romeo and Juliet (Sir Frank Dicksee, 1884).

The author
William Shakespeare

William Shakespeare, the greatest English poet and playwright, was born in Stratford-upon-Avon (1564-1616). His father was a merchant and eminent citizen, so Shakespeare was able to attend the local Grammar School. At 18 he married Anne Hathaway and had three children. Ten years later he was already famous in London as an actor and dramatist. When the theatres were closed down (1592-1594) because of the plague, Shakespeare turned to poetry and produced two long poems and a number of sonnets. In 1595 he was one of the owners of the company of actors called the *Chamberlain's Men*, and in 1599 he became co-partner of the Globe Theatre. Now rich and important, he obtained a coat of arms for his family and bought New Place, a large house in Stratford, for himself. Here he retired in 1610 and died in 1616.

Shakespeare lived in an age, the Elizabethan age, in which all the arts flowered under the influence of the Renaissance. London, as the capital of the kingdom, was the centre of the cultural revival: the poets celebrated the Queen, the players acted in front of the Court, the playwrights and the companies of actors needed the protection of important lords to perform their plays. Many public theatres were opened on the banks of the Thames, and the Globe was the most famous. The Elizabethan and Jacobean audiences were warm and involved, curious to learn the destiny of the great and ready to weep at their misfortunes, happy to laugh at comic scenes and characters. Shakespeare's plays were popular: they mixed tragedy with comedy, people from the noble classes and common people, they touched the heart of the spectators because they described real feelings, from envy to pity, from love to jealousy, from revenge to pardon.

Shakespeare produced about 36 plays. Some are tragedies (e.g. *Hamlet*, *Othello*, *Romeo and Juliet*), some are comedies (e.g. *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Love's Labours Lost*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*), and others are romances, or fantasies dominated by the central theme of love (e.g. *A Midsummer's Night's Dream*, *The Tempest*).

CHARACTERS

Romeo:	Lord Montague's only son
Juliet:	Lord Capulet's only daughter
Tybalt:	Juliet's cousin on her mother's side
Mercutio:	Romeo's friend and related to the Prince
Benvolio:	Lord Montague's nephew and Romeo's friend
Friar Laurence:	a Franciscan, Romeo's friend and confessor
Nurse:	Juliet's nurse and confidant
Escalus:	the Prince of Verona
Paris:	related to the Prince and Juliet's suitor
Lord Montague, Lord Capulet:	the heads of the two enemy families
Lady Montague:	Romeo's mother
Lady Capulet:	Juliet's mother
Rosaline:	a Veronese beauty loved by Romeo
Sampson, Gregory:	in the service of Lord Capulet

Other servants to the Capulets and to the Montagues, Relatives, Musicians

Action:	four days, from Sunday morning to Wednesday night
Setting:	mostly Verona

An Ancient Enmity

1 **What do you know about Romeo and Juliet? Answer the following questions as well as you can.**

a. Who were they?..

b. Were they English? ....

c. Where did they live? ....

d. Why are they remembered?..

e. What do they symbolize? ....

2 **Look at the picture on page 9 and answer the questions.**

a. Do you think the story takes place in the 20th century? ....

....

b. What social class do the people belong to? ....

....

c. Is the man on horseback a soldier or a Prince?................................

....

3 **Match each of the words below to its synonym given in scrambled order.**

1. quarrel	....	**a.** *decision*
2. to joke	....	**b.** *to detest*
3. fight	....	**c.** *opponent*
4. to shut	....	**d.** *to have fun*
5. to hate	....	**e.** *to close*
6. enemy	....	**f.** *conflict*
7. resolution	....	**g.** *controversy*

An Ancient Enmity

(Act 1, Scene I)

Once in the fair city of Verona lived two very important families, the Montagues and the Capulets. There was a long-standing[1] hostility between the two, and from time to time a quarrel[2] broke out[3] disturbing the peaceful life of the city.

One Sunday morning, around nine o'clock, some servants of the Capulet family were joking[4] in the street.

"Gregory, if any man or maid[5] of the house of Montague makes me angry, I'll strike[6] quickly!" boasted[7] Sampson.

"Ah! Ah! I am sure that you will run away… quickly!…" replied Gregory laughing. "But look, the dogs in the Montague livery[8] are coming… bite your thumb[9] at them and start a quarrel, I will back[10] you!"

In a few moments the Capulet and the Montague servants were fighting, shouting insults at one another.

1. *long-standing:* which had existed for a long time.
2. *quarrel:* dispute.
3. *broke (break-broke-broken) out:* began suddenly.
4. *joking:* speaking funnily.
5. *maid:* female servant.
6. *strike:* hit.
7. *boasted:* said proudly.
8. *livery:* uniform.
9. *bite your thumb (old form):* make an ugly expression with your face to show disgust.
10. *back:* support.