

A CATECHISM
OF
ENGLISH GRAMMAR;
OR
EASY LESSONS FOR BEGINNERS,
COMPRISING
THE PRINCIPAL DEFINITIONS, &c.,
USED ON THE SUBJECT OF ENGLISH GRAMMAR.

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P R E F A C E .

The object of this work is to give the learner a clear conception of the study of English Grammar and its use, and as a knowledge of English Grammar is an indispensable part of an English education, it is highly necessary that the subject should be made as interesting and comprehensive as possible. To this end the catechetical style has been adopted, which is well calculated to make the subject one of delight to the youthful mind, rather than an irksome task.

The work is entirely new in its arrangement, but will be easily understood by the learner, it is so simple as to need no explanation, and will be studied with pleasure.

Teachers are not obliged to confine themselves entirely to the questions in the book, but will find it beneficial to vary their questions, and by so doing, will get the definitions more strongly fixed in the minds of their pupils.

This being an introductory work, and consisting chiefly of definitions, all should be committed to memory, even the notes should be learned and remembered, as they will be of great use to the learner hereafter.

Sufficient is said on the subject of analysis for a work of this kind, and with the aid of the skilful teacher, a good foundation may be laid for the future success of the learner.

Examples for analysis and parsing may be taken from any common reading book, and be treated similar to those in the catechism.

Sounds of the letters, rules for spelling, lists of irregular verbs, &c., will be found in the appendix.

As this work has been carefully compiled from some of the best authors, it will afford a better assortment of definitions than any now in use. It will not only be found beneficial to the youth, but also to the teacher, and if skilfully managed will unquestionably prove to be of infinite benefit.

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ENGLISH GRAMMAR.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTION.

- Q. How do mankind communicate their thoughts ?
A. Mankind communicate their thoughts by spoken and written language.
- Q. What is language ?
A. Language, (derived from the Latin, *lingua*, the tongue,) is a succession of mental ideas expressed in words, and may be either spoken or written.
- Q. What are the elements of spoken language ?
A. The elements of spoken language are articulate sounds.
- Q. What are the elements of written language ?
A. The elements of written language are characters or letters which represent articulate sounds.
- Q. Into what are letters formed ?
A. Letters are formed into syllables.
- Q. Into what are syllables formed ?
A. Syllables are formed into words.
- Q. How are sentences formed ?
A. The combination of words form sentences.
- Q. What is Grammar ?
A. Grammar is that science which teaches the proper use of letters, syllables, words and sentences, (Greek *gramma*, a letter.)

- Q. What is the object of English Grammar?
- A. The object of English Grammar is to teach those who use the English language to express their thoughts correctly, either in speaking or writing.
- Q. What is a Grammarian?
- A. A Grammarian is one who understands the relation existing between letters, words and syllables.

CHAPTER II.

DIVISIONS OF GRAMMAR.

- Q. Into how many parts is English Grammar divided?
- A. English Grammar is divided into four parts.
- Q. What are the four parts into which English Grammar is divided?
- A. ORTHOGRAPHY, ETYMOLOGY, SYNTAX AND PROSODY.
- Q. What is Orthography?
- A. Orthography is that branch of Grammar which treats of the different characters or letters used in language; and the manner of uniting them to form syllables and words.
- Q. What is the meaning of the word Orthography?
- A. The word Orthography is derived from the Greek words, *orthos*, correct, and *grapho*, to write, and signifies writing or spelling correctly.
- Q. What is Etymology?
- A. Etymology is that branch of Grammar which treats of the various classes of words or parts of speech, their derivation and classification.

- Q. What is the meaning of the word Etymology?
- A. The word Etymology is derived from the Greek words, *etumon*, a true root, and *logos*, a word, and signifies the derivation of words.
- Q. What is Syntax?
- A. Syntax is that branch of Grammar which treats of the proper arrangement and connexion of words in sentences.
- Q. What is the meaning of the word Syntax?
- A. The word Syntax is derived from the Greek words, *syn*, together, and *tasso*, to arrange, and signifies the arranging of words in a sentence.
- Q. What is Prosody?
- A. Prosody is that branch of Grammar which treats of the accent and pronunciation of words, and of the different kinds of verse.
- Q. What is the meaning of the word Prosody?
- A. The word Prosody is derived from the Greek words, *pros*, about, or *prosodio*, 'about poetry, and *ode*, song or poetry, and signifies song or poetry.

PART I.

CHAPTER III.

ORTHOGRAPHY.

- Q. What is Orthography?
- A. Orthography is that branch of Grammar which treats of the different characters, or letters used in language,

and the manner of uniting them to form syllables and words.

LETTERS.

Q. What are letters?

A. Letters are marks or characters used in writing, and represent sounds of the human voice.

Q. How many letters does the English alphabet contain?

A. The English alphabet contains twenty-six letters.

Q. Into how many classes are letters divided?

A. Letters are divided into two classes, viz: VOWELS and CONSONANTS.

Q. What is a Vowel?

A. A Vowel is a letter which can be perfectly sounded when uttered alone. (Latin, *vocalis*, that may be sounded.)

Q. What is a Consonant?

A. A Consonant is a letter which cannot be perfectly sounded without the aid of a Vowel. (Latin, *consonans*, sounding together.)

Q. Which are the Vowels?

A. The Vowels are a, e, i, o, u, and w and y when they do not begin a word or syllable.

Q. Which are the Consonants?

A. The Consonants are b, c, d, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, p, q, r, s, t, v, x and z.

Q. What is a Diphthong?

A. A Diphthong is the union of two vowels in one sound.

Q. What is a proper Diphthong?

A. A proper Diphthong is one in which both the Vowel sounds are heard, as *ou* in loud.

Q. What is an improper Diphthong?

A. An improper Diphthong is one in which only one of the vowel sounds is heard, as *oa* in boat.

Q. What is a Triphthong?

A. A Triphthong is the union of three vowels in one sound, as *eau* in beauty.

CAPITALS.

Q. What are Capitals?

A. Capital letters are certain large characters used in written language, in certain situations—the following of which are the principal: The first word of every sentence; the first word of a line of poetry; the first word of a quotation; names of the Deity; proper nouns and adjectives derived from them, as Europe, European; names of objects personified, as O, Grave, refuge of the weary! the pronoun I, and interjection O, &c.

CHAPTER IV.

SYLLABLES.

Q. What is a Syllable?

A. A Syllable is a single sound, represented by one or more letters, as *a*, *an*, *ant*.

Q. How many vowels must each syllable contain?

A. Each syllable must contain at least one vowel.

WORDS.

Q. What is a Word?

A. A Word is an articulate sound, used as a sign of an idea.

Q. Into how many classes are words divided, with regard to the number of syllables each one contains?

A. Words are thus divided into four classes.

Q. What are the four classes into which words are thus divided?

A. Monosyllable, Dissyllable, Trisyllable and Polysyllable.

Q. What is a Monosyllable?

A. A Monosyllable is a word of one syllable, as *just*.

Q. What is a Dissyllable?

A. A Dissyllable is a word of two syllables, as *jus-tice*.

Q. What is a Trisyllable?

A. A Trisyllable is a word of three syllables, as *jus-ti-fy*.

Q. What is a Polysyllable?

A. A Polysyllable is a word of four or more syllables, as *jus-ti-fy-ing, jus-ti-fi-ca-tion*.

Q. How are words divided with reference to their origin?

A. Words are thus divided into two classes, viz.: PRIMITIVE and DERIVATIVE.

Q. What is a Primitive word?

A. A Primitive word is one which cannot be traced to a simpler form in the language, as *man, great, &c.*

Q. What is a Derivative word?

A. A Derivative word is one which can be traced to a simpler form, as *manly, happily, &c.*

Q. How are words divided with reference to their formation?

A. Words are thus divided into two classes, viz.: SIMPLE and COMPOUND.

Q. What is a Simple word?

A. A Simple word is one which is not combined with any other, as *use, kind, watch, man, &c.*

Q. What is a Compound word?

A. A Compound word is one which is formed of two or more united together, as *man-kind, watch-man, &c.*

SPELLING.

Q. What is Spelling?

A. Spelling is the art of expressing words by their proper letters.

Q. How is this art to be acquired?

A. This art will be best acquired by means of the spelling-book or dictionary, and by observation in reading, rather than by the study of written rules.

EXERCISES.

Point out the vowels, consonants, proper and improper diphthongs and triphthongs, in the following words:

Boy, many, rail, tail, vein, sign, decoy, road, against, mountain, royal, ground, pigeon, beau, beauty, review, million, adieu, yeoman, prey, avoirdupois, poor, town, tune, knowledge, brought, lieutenant, myrrh, aisle, youth.

Divide the following words into syllables, and name the class of words to which each one belongs, (whether monosyllable, dissyllable, trisyllable, or polysyllable):

Compound, misconduct, association, augmentation, insensibility, complication, compensation, communicate, prognosticate, preponderate, draw, fair, crow, burden,

Correct the errors in the use of the capital letters in the following sentences:

william gave the Book to me, and i now give it to you.
My Brother and i went to london to see the queen;
but found, on arriving there, that she had gone to edinburgh.

PART II. CHAPTER V.

ETYMOLOGY.

Q. What is Etymology?

A. Etymology is that branch of Grammar which treats of the various classes of words or parts of speech, their derivation and classification.

PARTS OF SPEECH.

Q. What are Parts of Speech?

A. Parts of Speech are the different kinds of words used in language.

Q. How many classes of words or Parts of Speech are there in the English language?

A. There are eight classes of words or Parts of Speech in the English language.

Q. What are the eight Parts of Speech?

A. The Noun, Verb, Pronoun, Adverb, Adjective, Preposition, Conjunction and Interjection.

Q. What is a NOUN?

A. A NOUN is the name of anything, as *William, Toronto, apple, truth*, (Latin, *nomen*, a name.)

Q. What is a VERB?

A. A VERB is a word which makes an assertion, or asks a question, as John *strikes* the desk; do you *hear* the noise? (Latin, *verbum*, a word.)

Q. What is a PRONOUN?

A. A PRONOUN is a word used instead of a Noun; as James went to Toronto; *he* says that *it* is a fine city. (Latin, *pro*, for, and *nomen*, a name.)

Q. What is an ADVERB?

A. AN ADVERB is a word joined to a Verb, Adjective, or to another Adverb, to modify its meaning; as she writes *well*; he is *remarkably* diligent; they read *very* correctly. (Latin, *ad*, to, and *verbum*, a word.)

Q. What is an ADJECTIVE?

A. AN ADJECTIVE is a word added to a Noun or Pronoun to express a quality; as a *good* boy, a *wise* man, &c., (Latin, *ad* to, and *jungo*, to join.)

Q. What is a PREPOSITION?

A. A PREPOSITION is a word placed before a Noun, to show the relation (or grammatical connection) between it and some other word; as James went *to* Toronto. (Latin, *pre* before, and *positum*, to place.)

Q. What is a CONJUNCTION?

A. A CONJUNCTION is a word used to connect words together and sentences together; as My brother *and* sister are come, *but* I have not seen them. (Latin, *con* together, and *jungo*, to join.)

Q. What is an INTERJECTION?

A. AN INTERJECTION is a word used to express sudden emotion; as Ah! there he comes! Alas! what shall I do! (Latin, *inter* between, and *jacio*, to cast.)

PARSING.

Q. What is PARSING?

A. Parsing is the art of explaining the Grammatical circumstances of the words used in a sentence.

CHAPTER VI.

I.—OF THE NOUN.

Q. What is a NOUN?

A. A NOUN is the name of anything, as *James, Toronto, Tree, &c.*

Q. How many kinds of NOUNS are there, with regard to their application?

A. There are two kinds, viz: *Proper* and *Common*.

Q. What is a PROPER NOUN?

A. A PROPER NOUN is the name of some particular person, place or thing; as *Henry, Toronto, April*.

Q. What is a COMMON NOUN?

A. A COMMON NOUN is the name of a whole class of individuals, places or things; as *Boy, City, Month, Fish, Insect, &c.*

Q. How are NOUNS divided with regard to the things of which they are the names?

A. NOUNS are thus divided into *real* and *abstract*.

Q. What are REAL NOUNS?

A. REAL NOUNS are the names of things which actually exist in Nature; as *Mountain, River, Tree*.

Q. What are ABSTRACT NOUNS?

A. ABSTRACT NOUNS are names of particular qualities; as *Goodness, Cheerfulness, Vanity, Frailty*.

Q. What is a COLLECTIVE NOUN?

A. A COLLECTIVE NOUN is a name applied to a collection of individuals; as *People, Council, Assembly, Flock, &c.*

Q. What is a VERBAL NOUN?

A. A VERBAL NOUN is a word that partakes of the nature of a Verb and also of a Noun; or which is the name of an action or state of being; as "The *singing* of birds," "The *cheering* of the multitude."

NOTE.—Such Nouns are called *verbal*, because they are derived from verbs; they are also called *participial* nouns, from having the form of certain words called Participles, which sometimes partake of the nature of a verb and noun, and sometimes of a verb and adjective; the latter are called verbal adjectives.

Q. What is a COMPOUND NOUN?

A. A COMPOUND NOUN is a name composed of two or more words; as *Rail-road*.

EXERCISES.

Point out the nouns in the following sentences, and to what class each one belongs.

John is a good boy. A mountain is a high elevation of land. A river is a long stream of water. After a march of eight days, the army reached the city of Washington, where they remained for two days, and then proceeded southward. Tall trees of the forest grow rapidly in summer. The cheering of the multitude was very great. The triumphing of the wicked is short.

CHAPTER VII.

MODIFICATIONS.

Q. How are Nouns modified.

A. Nouns are modified by Person, Number, Gender and Case.

PERSON.

Q. What is PERSON?

A. PERSON is that Modification which distinguishes the speaker, the hearer, and the person or thing spoken of.

Q. How many PERSONS have Nouns?

A. Nouns have three PERSONS, viz: the *First*, the *Second*, and the *Third*.

Q. What does the FIRST PERSON denote?

A. The FIRST PERSON denotes the *Speaker*; as I, John, went to London.

Q. What does the SECOND PERSON denote?

A. The SECOND PERSON denotes the person or thing spoken to; as *Robert*, go to school.

Q. What does the THIRD PERSON denote?

A. The THIRD PERSON denotes the person or thing spoken of; as *John* has gone to Toronto.

NUMBER.

Q. What is NUMBER?

A. NUMBER is that Modification which distinguishes one thing from more than one.

Q. How many NUMBERS have Nouns?

A. Nouns have two NUMBERS, viz: the *singular* and the *plural*.

Q. What does the SINGULAR NUMBER denote?

A. The SINGULAR NUMBER denotes but one; as the *boy* learns.

Q. What does the PLURAL NUMBER denote?

A. The PLURAL NUMBER denotes more than one; as the *boys* learn.

Q. How is the plural of Nouns generally formed?

A. The plural of Nouns is generally formed by adding *s* to the singular; as *book*, *books*; *hat*, *hats*, &c.

NOTE I.—Most nouns ending in *f* or *fe*, form their plurals by changing *f* or *fe* into *ves*; as *wife*, *wives*, *loaf*, *loaves*.

NOTE II.—Nouns ending in *y* after a *consonant*, change the *y* into *ies* to form the plural; as *body*, *bodies*. But nouns ending in *y*, after a *vowel*, have their plurals regular; as *valley*, *valleys*, *boy*, *boys*.

EXERCISES.

Give the plurals of the following Nouns?

Tax, brush, gas, berry, prodigy, hero, negro, portico, fly, lady, monkey, wolf, leaf, brother, penny, handful, thief, valley, lady, index, knife, life, mother-in-law, city.