

ENGLISH GRAMMAR:

OR,

AN EXPOSITION OF
THE PRINCIPLES AND USAGES
OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

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NOTE.

Four kinds of type are used in the following pages to indicate the portions that are considered more or less elementary. The most important rules and definitions are printed in large type, *italicised*. These are to be committed to memory the first time of going through the book. A few other rules and definitions are printed in type of the same size, but not italicised. The portions so printed are intended for the *second* perusal. They are scarcely less important than the previous, and it may be a matter of some doubt whether they should not be learned the first time of going through. The next and most considerable portion of the work is printed in type of a medium size. Last of all, in the small type, is that part of the work in which the doctrines advanced in the rules and definitions are somewhat more fully explained and illustrated. By this arrangement the author has been enabled to enter more at length than is usually done, upon difficult and important points, while studying the utmost possible brevity in regard to the portions which are intended to be committed to memory.

For convenience in making references, the paragraphs are all numbered consecutively, from the beginning to the end of the book. At the bottom of each page are questions and exercises growing out of the text on that page. These questions and exercises are numbered to correspond with the numbering of the text. They are also distinguished by the letters *a, b, c, d*, to indicate the four kinds of type before mentioned. These mechanical arrangements are intended to give practical facilities in hearing large classes, and in assigning lessons.

The table of irregular verbs is an exact reprint of the last edition of Lindley Murray, by Longman & Co., London.

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ENGLISH GRAMMAR.

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1. *Grammar is the science of Language.*
 2. *Grammar is divided into four parts; namely, Orthography, Etymology, Syntax, and Prosody.*
 3. *Orthography treats of Letters, Etymology of Words, Syntax of Sentences, and Prosody of Versification.*

ORTHOGRAPHY.

4. *Orthography treats of Letters.*
5. The *Points* and other characters used in writing, embracing the rules of Punctuation, belong properly to *Orthography*. But the most important of these rules cannot be understood by the pupil until he is familiar with the general principles of Grammar, particularly of Syntax. For convenience in teaching, therefore, this part of Orthography is treated of under the head of *Prosody*, although at some expense of logical accuracy.
6. Letters are considered in regard to their *nature, divisions, and sounds*, and the *mode of forming them into words and syllables*.
The forming of letters into words and syllables is also called *Spelling*.

QUESTIONS AND EXERCISES.—a. 1. What is *Grammar*? 2. How is it divided? 3. What does Orthography treat of? Etymology? Syntax? Prosody? d. 5. To what part of Grammar does Punctuation properly belong? Why is it treated of under the head of *Prosody*?
c. 6. Under what *different heads* are letters considered? What is the last head also called?

175. *The import of the possessive* may generally be expressed by the preposition *of*; thus, "*man's* wisdom" means "the wisdom of *man*." These two forms of expression, however, are not always identical. Thus, "the king's picture" means a picture *belonging to* the king; but "a picture of the king" means a *portrait of* him.

176. *The origin of the possessive.* The *apostrophe* and *s* are an abbreviation, not of *his* as has been sometimes asserted, but of the Saxon genitive *es* or *is*. Thus, "the king's crown" was originally "the *kingis* crown." This phrase *might* indeed be easily resolved into "the king *his* crown," and some of the Hebraisms found in the English version of the Scriptures seem to countenance such a hypothesis. But the *facts* are against it. And besides, "queen's" could not be resolved into "queen *hers*," nor "children's" into "children *theirs*," &c.

177. The *apostrophe* and *s* do not always indicate the possessive case, as they are sometimes employed to form the plural of mere letters or characters used as nouns; as four 3's, ten 6's, &c.; also to form the singular of verbs of a similar character; as, "he *pro's* and *con's*, and weighs the matter over."

ADJECTIVES.

178. *An ADJECTIVE is a word used to qualify a Noun; as, good man.*

179. Some grammarians have objected to making adjectives a separate part of speech, and have classed them under the head of nouns, because they often, if not always, denote some substance, quality, or property, just as truly as nouns do. Thus, "brazen tube" means "a tube made of brass." The adjective *brazen* denotes the same substance that the noun *brass* does. In like manner, *waxen* implies the substance *wax*, *golden* implies the sub-

Decline, in like manner, the other words given in the table.

c. 175. What is observed of the *import of the possessive*? What is the difference between "the king's picture," and "a picture of the king." 176. What is remarked of the *origin of the possessive*? 177. When are the *apostrophe* and *s* used to form the *plural*? For what else are they sometimes used?

a. 178. What is an adjective?

d. 179. Why have some grammarians objected to the present classifica-

tion of adjectives? In what is this objection founded? By what is the noun really distinguished from the other parts of speech?
 c. 180. When do nouns become adjectives? 181. How are adjectives sometimes used? 182. What is remarked of adjectives preceded by the definite article?
 c. 183. What are *numeral* adjectives? 184. What three kinds of

stance *gold*, *hard* the quality *hardness*. The objection is founded in a mistaken view of the true nature of the noun. That which distinguishes the noun from the other parts of speech, is not that it expresses some substantive idea, and the others do not. On the contrary, every part of speech, every word in fact, necessarily expresses some substantive meaning.— Thus, *above* and *below* have a meaning, and that meaning is some circumstance, quality, or *thing*, just as much as that expressed by the words *top* and *bottom*. In the words *person*, *personal*, *personally*, *personify*, *thought*, *thoughtful*, *thoughtfully*, *thinks*, &c., we have the same substantive idea or *thing* running through a whole series of words, each of which is a different part of speech. The noun then is distinguished from the other parts of speech, not from its expressing some substantive idea, but from its being the *NAME* of that idea. If we speak or think of the *name* of that idea, we use a *noun*. If we connect that idea with any noun as one of its qualities, accidents, or attributes, but without affirmation, it is an *adjective*. For further illustrations of this point, see the remarks upon the verb.

180. Nouns become adjectives when they are used to express some quality of another noun; as, *gold* ring, *sea* water.

181. Adjectives are sometimes used as nouns, and admit of number and case; as, our *superiors*, his *bettors*, by *fifties*, for *twenty's* sake, &c.

182. Adjectives preceded by the definite articles are often used as nouns; as, "*the little* that was known of him." When the expression refers to *persons*, the adjective is always considered *plural*; as, "*the good*," meaning good men.

NUMERAL ADJECTIVES.

183. Adjectives which express number are called Numerals.

184. Numeral Adjectives are of three kinds,—the Cardinal, Ordinal, and Multiplicative.