

FIRST LESSONS

IN

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801
ENGLISH GRAMMAR AND COMPOSITION,

WITH

EXERCISES

IN THE

ELEMENTS OF PRONUNCIATION, WORDS FOR DICLATION,
AND SUBJECTS FOR COMPOSITION.

BY ELIZABETH ORAM.

"Let no one despise as inconsiderable the elements of Grammar, because it may seem to them a matter of small importance, to show the difference between vowels and consonants, and make children acquainted with their organic construction. Those who penetrate into the innermost parts of this temple of science, will there discern much subtilty and refinement."



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PREFACE.

CHILDREN are every-where taught, that they see with their eyes, hear with their ears, &c. Philosophers have made the structure of these organs the subjects of investigation, and they are presented as objects of study to the young; but how few know any thing about the organization of the human voice! of that machinery that makes the soul visible, and which forms the most distinguishing characteristic of man!

Children not only may, but ought to be taught, how they do that which is required of them, and that they may understand how they speak, as well as what they speak, these exercises have been prepared.

The Grammar is an abstract from the best authorities, according to "PRESENT NATIONAL and REPUTABLE use" of those rules or principles which lie at the foundation of the structure of our language, and which may be easily comprehended by pupils.

The lessons for "Dictation and Grammatical Analysis," form interesting reading lessons, while the exercises in the elements of Pronunciation, and subjects for Composition, give the orthography of over ten thousand of the most important words in the English language, divided and accentuated according to the most approved standards.

The Analysis and Classification of the Alphabet is new; it is arranged, according to the organic construction of the English Language.

By this, it will be seen, that the radical vowel sounds, are only three, and the radical consonant sounds seven, making altogether ten primitive sounds, which enter into the composition of all the other sounds of the language.

The value of this Analysis and Classification for Mnemonic associations, will be seen, by those who can use it for that purpose.

The uniform sounds, according to the one given in the Lesson which precedes it, are generally placed at the commencement of the words, of which that sound makes a part, and exhibit the Elements of the Language, in a more simple form, than, as the author believes, has ever been given.

A few of the words are unaccented; the proper placing of the accents belonging to them will serve, as a new and useful exercise for young people.

Years of experience have taught, that Children can only be made acquainted with Language, by first teaching them, thoroughly, the elements of it, and then combining these according to acknowledged laws.

The whole Book is intended to be written and studied by the Pupil, (divided into such portions as may be deemed expedient,) after the Dictation and Oral explanation of the Teacher; and if it make plain and interesting, a generally abstruse and dry subject, and form a MANUAL that shall aid BEGINNERS in acquiring the ELEMENTS OF THEIR OWN LANGUAGE, one great object of the Author will be obtained.

NEW YORK, 1846.

THE INDEX.

	Page.
Organic Formation of the Elements of the English Language,	5
Organic Classification of the Letters,	8
Pure Vowels,	8
Diphthongs,	9
Consonants, in the order of their Organic Formation,	9
Radical Consonant Sounds,	10
Derived Consonant Sounds,	10
Aspirate,	10
Superfluous Letters,	10
The number of Sounds in the English Language,	10
Alphabet, according to the Organic Arrangement of the Letters,	11
Compound Consonants, representing one sound,	12
Compound Vowels, representing one sound,	12
Syllables,	12
Words,	12
Substantives or Nouns,	13
The first Sound of <i>E</i> , as heard in the word <i>Ear</i> , with Lesson,	13
Words containing the first Sound of <i>E</i> ,	14
Exercises on Nouns,	16
Adjectives,	16
The second Sound of <i>E</i> , as heard in the word <i>Nests</i> , with Lesson,	16
Words containing the second Sound of <i>E</i> ,	17
Exercises on Adjectives,	23
Pronouns,	23
The first sound of <i>A</i> , as heard in the word <i>Babe</i> , with Lesson,	23
Words containing the first Sound of <i>A</i> ,	24
Exercises on Pronouns,	24
Verbs,	25

THE INDEX.

	Page.
The second Sound of <i>A</i> , as heard in the word Heart, with Lesson,	25
Words containing the second Sound of <i>A</i> ,	26
Exercises on Verbs,	26
Adverbs,	26
The third Sound of <i>A</i> , as heard in the word Ball, with Lesson,	27
Words containing the Third Sound of <i>A</i> ,	27
Exercises on Adverbs,	28
Prepositions,	28
The fourth Sound of <i>A</i> , as heard in the word Hand, with Lesson,	29
Words containing the fourth Sound of <i>A</i> ,	29
Exercises on Prepositions,	37
Conjunctions,	37
The first Sound of <i>O</i> , as heard in the word Home, with Lesson,	38
Words containing the first Sound of <i>O</i> ,	38
Exercises on Conjunctions,	39
Articles,	40
The second Sound of <i>O</i> , as heard in the word Broom, with Lesson,	40
Words containing the second Sound of <i>O</i> ,	41
Exercises on the Articles,	41
Interjections,	41
The third Sound of <i>O</i> , as heard in the word Fork, with Lesson,	41
Words containing the third Sound of <i>O</i> ,	42
Exercises upon Interjections,	42
Common and Proper Nouns,	43
The fourth Sound of <i>O</i> , as heard in the word Clock, with Lesson,	43
Words containing the fourth Sound of <i>O</i> ,	44
Exercises on Common Nouns,	45
Gender,	45
Diphthongs,	46
The first Sound of <i>I</i> , as heard in the word Hive, with Lesson,	46
Words containing the first Sound of <i>I</i> ,	47
Exercises on the Gender of Nouns,	47
Number,	48

THE INDEX.

	Page
The second Sound of <i>I</i> , as heard in the word Indian, with Lesson,	48
Words containing the second Sound of <i>I</i> ,	49
Exercises on the Number and Person of Nouns,	63
Case,	63
Words containing the second Sound of <i>U</i> , as heard in the word Lute, with Lesson,	64
Words containing the first Sound of <i>U</i> ,	65
Exercises on the Cases of Nouns,	65
Degrees of Comparison,	65
The second Sound of <i>U</i> , as heard in the word Church, with Lesson,	66
Words containing the second Sound of <i>U</i> ,	67
Exercises on the Degrees of Comparison,	74
Pronouns,	74
The Diphthong <i>OI</i> , as heard in the word Boy, with Lesson,	76
Words containing the Diphthong <i>OI</i> ,	78
Exercises on Pronouns,	79
Adjective Pronouns,	79
The Diphthong <i>OU</i> , as heard in the word House, with Lesson,	79
Words containing the Diphthong <i>OU</i> ,	80
Exercises on Adjective Pronouns,	82
Active, Passive, and Neuter Verbs,	82
The Sound <i>Ch</i> , as heard in the word Churn, with Lesson,	83
Words containing the Sound of <i>Ch</i> ,	84
Exercises on Verbs,	86
Moods,	86
The Sound <i>Sh</i> , as heard in the word Ship, with Lesson,	87
Words containing the Sound of <i>Sh</i> ,	88
Exercises on the Moods of Verbs,	91
Tense,	91
The Sound <i>Zh</i> , as heard in the word Asia, with Lesson,	91
Words containing the Sound of <i>Zh</i> ,	93
Exercises on the Tenses of Verbs,	93
Tense continued,	93
The Sound <i>Ng</i> , as heard in the word King, with Lesson,	94
Words containing the Sound of <i>Ng</i> ,	95

THE INDEX.

	Page
Exercises on the Tenses, - - - -	95
Participles, - - - -	96
The Sound of <i>Th</i> sharp, as heard in the word Truth, with Lesson, - - - -	96
Words containing the sharp Sound of <i>Th</i> , - - - -	97
Exercises on the Participles, - - - -	100
Number and Person of Verbs, - - - -	100
Conjugation of Verbs, - - - -	101
The Sound <i>Th</i> flat, as heard in the word Mother, with Lesson, - - - -	101
Words containing the flat sound of <i>Th</i> , - - - -	103
Exercises on the Number and Person of Verbs, - - - -	103
Auxiliary Verbs, - - - -	104
The Verb, To Be, - - - -	104
The Sound of <i>P</i> , as heard in the word Printing, with Lesson, - - - -	106
Words containing the Sound of <i>P</i> , - - - -	108
Exercises on the Verb, To Be, - - - -	117
The Verb, To Have, - - - -	117
The Sound <i>B</i> , as heard in the word Book, with Lesson, - - - -	120
Words containing the Sound of <i>B</i> , - - - -	122
Exercises on the Verb, To Have, - - - -	127
Regular Verbs, - - - -	128
The Verb, To Love, - - - -	128
The Sound <i>M</i> , as heard in the word Moon, with Lesson, - - - -	130
Words containing the Sound <i>M</i> , - - - -	131
Exercises on Regular Verbs, - - - -	137
Irregular Verbs, - - - -	138
The Sound <i>F</i> , as heard in the word Flowers, with Lesson, - - - -	140
Words containing the Sound of <i>F</i> , - - - -	141
Exercises upon Irregular Verbs, - - - -	149
Defective Verbs, - - - -	149
The Sound <i>V</i> , as heard in the word Violin, with Lesson, - - - -	150
Words containing the Sound <i>V</i> , - - - -	151
Exercises upon the Auxiliaries, - - - -	153
Adverbs, - - - -	154
The sound <i>T</i> , as heard in the word Tea, with Lesson, - - - -	154
Words containing the Sound <i>T</i> , - - - -	155
Exercises on Adverbs, - - - -	161

THE INDEX.

	Page
Prepositions, - - - -	161
The Sound <i>D</i> , as heard in the word Diamond, with Lesson, - - - -	162
Words containing the Sound <i>D</i> , - - - -	163
Exercises on Prepositions, - - - -	169
Conjunctions, - - - -	169
The Sound <i>N</i> , as heard in the word Number, with Lesson, - - - -	169
Words containing the Sound <i>N</i> , - - - -	171
Exercises on Conjunctions, - - - -	173
Articles, - - - -	173
The Sound <i>L</i> , as heard in the word Library, with Lesson, - - - -	174
Words containing the Sound <i>L</i> , - - - -	175
Exercises upon the Articles, - - - -	179
Interjections, - - - -	179
The Sound <i>R</i> , as heard in the word Rocking, with Lesson, - - - -	179
Words containing the Sound <i>R</i> , - - - -	180
Exercise upon Interjections, - - - -	185
Sentences, - - - -	185
The Sound <i>S</i> , as heard in the word Soul, with Lesson, - - - -	186
Words containing the Sound <i>S</i> , - - - -	187
General Exercise, - - - -	194
Syntax, - - - -	194
Rules I, II, and III, - - - -	194
The Sound <i>Z</i> , as heard in the word Zoophytes, with Lesson, - - - -	195
Exercises on Sentences, - - - -	195
Words containing the Sound <i>Z</i> , - - - -	196
Exercises on the above Rules, - - - -	196
Rules IV and V, - - - -	196
The Sound of <i>J</i> , as heard in the word Jerusalem, with Lesson, - - - -	197
Words containing the Sound of <i>J</i> , - - - -	198
Exercises on the above Rules, - - - -	199
Rule VI, - - - -	199
The Sound of <i>K</i> , as heard in the word Kremlin, with Lesson, - - - -	200
Words containing the Sound <i>K</i> , - - - -	200
Exercise upon the above Rule, - - - -	201
Rules VII and VIII, - - - -	201
The Sound of <i>G</i> , as heard in the word Glass, with Lesson, - - - -	202
Words containing the Sound <i>G</i> , - - - -	203

THE INDEX.

Exercises upon the above Rules,	-	-	-	Page
Rule IX,	-	-	-	- 204
The Sound <i>Y</i> consonant, as heard in Year, with Lesson,	-	-	-	- 205
Words containing the Sound <i>Y</i> ,	-	-	-	- 206
Rules X and XI,	-	-	-	- 207
The Sound of <i>W</i> consonant, as heard in the word Wealth,	-	-	-	- 207
with Lesson,	-	-	-	- 207
Words containing the Sound of <i>W</i> ,	-	-	-	- 210
Exercises on the above Rules,	-	-	-	- 210
Rules XII, XIII, and XIV,	-	-	-	- 210
The Sound or Aspiration <i>H</i> , as heard in the word Hiero-	-	-	-	- 211
glyphics, with Lesson,	-	-	-	- 212
Words containing the Sound of <i>H</i> ,	-	-	-	- 216
Exercise upon the Rules,	-	-	-	- 216
Use of Capital Letters,	-	-	-	- 217
Punctuation,	-	-	-	- 217
Comma,	-	-	-	- 218
Semicolon,	-	-	-	- 218
Colon,	-	-	-	- 218
Period,	-	-	-	- 218
Note of Interrogation,	-	-	-	- 218
Note of Exclamation,	-	-	-	- 218
Exercises on Punctuation,	-	-	-	- 219
APPENDIX,				
The Formation of the Plural Number of Nouns,	-	-	-	- 221
The Formation of the Gender of Nouns,	-	-	-	- 222

GRAMMAR AND COMPOSITION.

ORGANIC FORMATION OF THE ELEMENTS OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

AN articulate sound is the sound of the human voice, formed by the organs of speech.

Speech is made up of articulate sounds, and what we call articulation is performed by the action of the throat, palate, teeth, tongue, and lips.

A letter is the first principle; or least part of a word.

The letters of the English language, called the English Alphabet, are 26 in number.

The simplest articulate voices, or sounds, are those which proceed from an open mouth, without any alteration in the position, or any motion of the organs of speech, from the moment the sound commences, until it ends: as *E*, *A*, *O*, which are pure vowel sounds.

When these sounds, in passing through the mouth, are interrupted or intercepted, a consonant, or sound with another sound, is formed: as, *eb*, *ad*, *on*, &c.

P and *B* are formed by closing the lips, until the breath is collected, and then letting it issue, by forming *e*: as, *be*, *pe*.

F and *V* are formed by pressing the upper teeth upon the under lip, and sounding the vowel *e* before the former, and after the latter: as, *ef*, *ve*.

NUMBER.

Substantives, or nouns, are of two numbers: the singular and the plural.

The singular number expresses but one object: as, A Book, The Air.

The plural number signifies more objects than one: as Tables, Books, &c.

Nouns are all of the third person, when spoken of, and the second, when spoken to: as, " Blessings attend us, on every side; Be grateful, ye children of men."

LESSON FOR DICTATION AND GRAMMATICAL ANALYSIS.

The second sound of I, as heard in Indian.

The name Indian, was applied by Columbus to the inhabitants of the New World, when he first discovered America, and supposed, he had found the long-desired passage to India.

The people of this immense continent are divided into tribes, each independent of the other, and generally speaking in dialects and languages peculiar to themselves.

Although the Indians of North America were found in a savage state, yet they are, doubtless, the remains of a great and noble people.

The inhabitants of South America, when discovered, were in a much higher state of society than those of the North, being more united, and some having a regular government, as the Peruvians and Mexicans.

All the Indian tribes are noted for their bravery and hospitality; but they are cruel in war, and endure the tortures of their enemies with stoical indifference. They live by hunting and fishing, while the women are employed in cultivating the ground, and doing the menial work.

They believe in the existence of a Great Spirit, or a Supreme Ruler over all; in the immortality of the soul, and a future state of rewards and punishments. But they, with all this, are exceedingly superstitious; believing in the existence of inferior deities, and frequently sacrificing to them.

QUESTIONS UPON THE LESSONS.

Which of the words contain the second sound of I?

How many numbers have nouns?

Which of the nouns are singular?

Which of the nouns are plural?

Which of the nouns are of the second person?

Which of the nouns are of the third person?

Words containing the second sound of I: or,

Exercises in the Elements of Pronunciation, with Words for Dictation and Subjects for Composition.

ich-nog'-ra-phy	ig'-no-ble
ich-thy-ol'-o-gy	ig'-no'-bly
id'-i-o-cy	ig'-no-min'-ious
id-i-oe'-ra-cy	ig'-no-min'-ious-ly
id-i-o-crat'-i-cal	ig'-no-min-y
id'-i-om	ig'-no-rance
id-i-o-mat'-ic	ig'-no-rant
id-i-o-mat'-i-cal	ig'-no-rant-ly
id-i-op'-a-ty	ill
id-i-o-syn'-cra-cy	il-lapse'
id-i-ot	il-la'-tion
id'-i-ot-ism	il'-la-tive
ig'-ne-us	il-le'-gal
ig-nis-fat'-u-us	il-le'-gal-ly
ig-nite'	il-le'-gi-ble
ig-ni'-tion	il-lib'-e-ral
ig-ni'-ti-ble	il-lib'-e-ral-ly