

A
GRAMMATICAL SYSTEM
OF THE
ENGLISH LANGUAGE :
COMPREHENDING
A Plain and Familiar SCHEME, of TEACHING
YOUNG GENTLEMEN AND LADIES
The ART of SPEAKING and WRITING
CORRECTLY
THEIR NATIVE TONGUE.

BY CALEB ALEXANDER, A. M.

SCIENTIARUM JANITRIX GRAMMATICA.

The SEVENTH EDITION, corrected by the AUTHOR.

PRINTED AT BOSTON,
By I. THOMAS AND E. T. ANDREWS,

[PROPRIETORS of the WORK.]

Sold, Wholesale and Retail, by them at Faust's Statue, No. 45, New-
bury-Street; by said THOMAS, in Worcester; and by THOMAS,
ANDREWS, & BUTLER, in Baltimore.

JAN. 1803.

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P R E F A C E.

TO simplify the English verbs, and form a correct and complete Syntax, were the principal motives of publishing the First Edition of "THE GRAMMATICAL SYSTEM OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE." Of his own abilities the author was very diffident. The circle, he was sensible, had been trodden by some of the first literary characters in the British nation; whose works have been transported to America, and are in high repute. A deviation from these "giants of literature," he judged might be thought, by some, to be presumptuous, and even pedantic. But conviction, that great names ought not to sanctify mistakes, emboldened the attempt to extricate the subject of grammar from the perplexity and deficiency with which it has been embarrassed. The writers on this subject were consulted with attention and candour. The deviations from their remarks, and the additions to the rules of syntax, were made in consequence of long experience. To teach systematically the English language, is undoubtedly the best method to attain a knowledge of its component parts, and of the mutual connexion and influence of analyzed sentences.

That the English language is not capable of being reduced to syntactical rules, is a popular but erroneous sentiment. The Latin language of the Augustan age is pure and sublime; and notwithstanding the different terminations of its nouns, pronouns, adjectives, and verbs, it has been reduced to such determinate rules that any school boy may understand and apply them. The French language has, of late years, been studied with great assiduity, by many able and ingenious writers of that nation, who have considered its construction and determined its propriety with great accuracy. The criminal inattention to the language, in which we dally converse and write, is the principal reason, that many are induced to believe it is not reducible to simple, plain rules.

"The genius and grammar of the English language, to the reproach of our country, (says a celebrated writer) have not been studied with care, or ascertained with precision. Grammar is apt to be slighted by superficial thinkers, as belonging to those rudiments of knowledge, which were inculcated upon us, in our earliest youth. To the ignorance of it must be attributed many of those fundamental defects which appear in writing."* To say, that our language is not reducible to simple, determinate rules, is a confession of its being a barbarous, incoherent mixture of articulated sounds. A confession, calculated to make Americans believe, that their language "is made up of the shreds and clippings of nature."

The

* Dr. Blair.

The following grammar contains more rules of syntax, than any one book that has been published on the subject. Against such a multitude of rules many, perhaps, will make objections. But the objections will appear invalid, when it is considered, that grammar, in general, ought to contain as many rules as are necessary to parse the language, for which it is composed. This is the only apology for inserting such a variety of rules. And for this reason only, many rules, that were in other grammars, have been omitted; and some, never before published, have been added.

The peculiar nature of the English participles gave rise to many additional observations and rules. To the young learner there is no one part of speech so difficult and perplexing as participles. Their being used in the nature of verbs, adjectives, and nouns, both in the nominative and objective cases, required a particular and separate attention. And the author flatters himself, that the subject is so thoroughly investigated, the attentive mind will find no great difficulty, in analyzing the sentences, in which participles are used, with all their variety of application.

To assign all the reasons, that induced to deviate from other grammarians; to retrench, where they were redundant, and add, where they were deficient, would lead to a needless prolixity. Comparing this with the other grammars, will afford the most satisfaction.

The reception that a generous public has given to this work, has exceeded the author's most sanguine expectations. It has been introduced as a classical book, into nearly all the academies in the northern States, and many other public and private schools. Many gentlemen of literary accomplishments have been pleased to speak favourably in its commendation. These flattering encouragements, joined with an ambition to have a correct and complete grammar, have induced to a critical revision of the work. Accordingly, several mistakes, in the first editions, have been corrected, new illustrations and remarks have been added, and the whole calculated to facilitate the acquirements of grammatical knowledge.

To the benevolent patrons of this work the author returns, in this public manner, his most cordial thanks; and begs leave to solicit the continuance of their favours. To gain the approbation of qualified judges is, he confesses, his ambition. For this purpose, he is willing to exert his abilities, in analyzing the principles of the English language, and making, if possible, the system of grammar complete. The future remarks of his correspondents will be noticed, with all the attention their importance may demand; and all necessary additions and corrections will have due notice taken of them in subsequent editions.

THE AUTHOR.

MENDON, 1795.

GRAMMATICAL SYSTEM, &c.

GRAMMAR.

GRAMMAR teaches the art of expressing and communicating our thoughts, with verbal propriety.

Grammar shews the nature of sentences; and the mutual connexion and dependence of each word, of which they are composed.

Words are divided into ten classes, commonly called parts of Speech; namely, the Article, Noun, Pronoun, Adjective, Verb, Participle, Adverb, Preposition, Conjunction, and Interjection.

ARTICLE.

The article is a word, placed before a noun, to determine the extent of its signification.

There are two articles, *a* and *the*. The article *a* is prefixed to nouns beginning with a consonant; as, *a house, a barn*. But when a noun begins with a vowel, or silent *h*, *an* is used, to render the pronunciation more easy; as, *an index, an hour*.

A is called the indefinite article. It is never used to discriminate any particular person, or thing. As, *a king*; that is, *any king*. *An army*; that is, *any army*.

A is prefixed to substantives in the singular number only.*

A is used before *dozen, hundred, thousand, million*. In this case, they are considered as one whole number, formed from a collection of many particular parts.

This article often includes the meaning of *every* and *each*. As, *he inherits an estate of three thousand pounds a year. They were paid at the rate of twenty pounds a man.*

The is the definite article. It is prefixed to nouns, both in the singular and plural number; and discriminates some particular person, or thing. As, *the King of England, the Americans, the Alps, the sun.*

The is used before *more, most, less, least, better, best, greater, greatest*. As, *the more I read the book, the better I like it. "One of the least was over a hundred, and the greatest over a thousand."*†

When nouns are taken in their most extensive signification, they do not admit articles before them. As, *dogs are faithful. Horses are useful. Man is the most noble creature in this lower world.*

N O U N.

A noun is the name of any thing that exists, whether material or immaterial. As, *matter, spirit, angels, men, virtue, vice.*

Any word, that can be made the subject of discourse, is a noun. As, *he speaks of virtue. He loves the study of philosophy.*

Nouns are either common, or proper. Proper nouns are appropriated to individuals only. As, *Jahn, Boston.*

Common

* *A* when used with *few* or *many*, indicates a small or great number considered in a collective view, or as a whole; as, *a few men or women, a great many houses*; in which phrases the words *few* and *many* seem to be used substantively, the preposition *of* being understood. *Of* is sometimes expressed after these words; as, *I only read a few of his works; a great many of the inhabitants died.* Elements of Grammar, by Charles Coote, of Pembroke College.

† Bible.

Common nouns are appropriated to whole species. As, *man* is the name of one species; *fish* of another; and *birds* of another.

By using the article *the* before proper names, we convert them into proper nouns. As, *the Cæsars*; *the Strongs*; *the Misses Pomeroy*.

NUMBER.

Number is the distinction of one from many. Nouns have two numbers, the singular and plural. The singular number is confined to one particular person, or thing; as, *man, pen, book*. The plural number comprehends more than one; as, *men, pens, books*.

Collective nouns, or nouns comprehending many individuals, although they contain plurality of idea, are used, with propriety, in the singular number. To this class belong *army, herd, flock, people, assembly, multitude*.

The plural number is generally formed by the addition of *s* to the singular; as, *king, kings*.

When the singular ends in *o, x, ch, sh*, or *s*, the plural is formed by the addition of *es*; as, *box, boxes; church, churches; brush, brushes; hero, heroes*.

Some nouns are irregular in the formation of their plural number. Of such the following is a catalogue:

Sing.	Plur.	Sing.	Plur.
Man	Men.	Penny	Pence.
woman	women.	child	children.
brother	{ brothers, or brethren.	index	{ indexes, or indices.
ox	oxen.	focus	foci.
radius	radii.	die	dice.
mouse	mice.	louse	lice.
tooth	teeth.	goose	geese.
beau	beaux.		

Some nouns, derived from the Greek, change *on* into *a*, and *is* into *es*. Criterion, criteria. Automaton, automata. Phenomenon, phenomena. Thesis, theses. Emphasis, emphases. Antithesis, antitheses. Hypothesis, hypotheses. Parenthesis, parentheses. Ellipsis, ellipses; an epoch makes epocha. Some

Some Hebrew nouns form their plural number, by adding *im* to the singular. Seraph, Seraphim. Cherub, Cherubim. Caphtor, Caphtorim. Baal, Baalim.

Many nouns, ending in *f* or *fe*, form their plural by changing *f* into *v*, and adding *s*. As, life, lives. Knife, knives. Wife, wives. Calf, calves. Elf, elves. Half, halves. Leaf, leaves. Loaf, loaves. Shelf, shelves. Self, selves. Thief, thieves. Wolf, wolves. Staff, staves.

Nouns that end in *y*, preceded by a consonant, form their plural by changing *y* into *ies*. As, holy, holies. Body, bodies. Assembly, assemblies. Lady, ladies. Those preceded by *e*, add *s* only to the plural; as, *money, moneys; valley, vallies*.

Many nouns are the same in both numbers; as, *sheep, deer*. The indefinite article *a*, prefixed to a noun of this kind, denotes, it is used in the singular number. As, *a sheep*; that is, *one sheep*.

A few nouns, of Latin derivation, form their plural by changing *us* into *i*; as, Magus, Magi. Radius, radii. Genius, geniti. *Genius*, meaning a man of distinguished abilities, follows the general rule. As, *America* has produced many great *geniuses*.

Proper names, when used metaphorically, or emphatically, admit the plural number. As, the untimely has many *Mecenases*. *The Hampdens*. *The Howes*.

GENDER.

There are three genders belonging to English nouns; which are the masculine, the feminine, and the neuter.

All nouns, expressing males, are of the masculine gender; as, *man, boy, horse*.

All nouns, expressing females, are of the feminine gender; as, *woman, girl, mare*.

All nouns, expressing things without life, are of the neuter gender. Likewise, nouns, that denote creatures whose sex is not known, or has not been determined by the custom of language, may be esteemed neuter. As, *bird, fish, mole, fly, worm, ant, snake, toad, frog, &c.*

The

The gender of many nouns is known, by their different termination. Of such are the following:

Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
Abbot,	Abbess.	Adulterer,	Adulteress.
actor,	actress.	chanter,	chantress.
count,	countess.	deacon,	deaconess.
doctor,	doctress.	ambassador,	ambassadoress.
baron,	baroness.	elector,	electress.
benefactor,	benefactress.	emperor,	empress.
duke,	dutches.	governor,	governess.
heir,	heiress.	hero,	{ heroess, or
hunter,	huntress.		{ heroine.
jew,	jewess.	lion,	lioness.
marquis,	marchioness.	mayor,	mayoress.
patron,	patroness.	master,	mistress.
prior,	prioress.	priest,	priestess.
poet,	poetess.	procurer,	procuress.
peer,	peeress.	prince,	princess.
shepherd,	shepherdess.	prophet,	prophetess.
seamster,	seamstress.	songster,	songstress.
sorcerer,	forcereff.	tutor,	tutoreff.
viscount,	viscountess.	diviner,	divinereff.
traitor,	traitress.	tyger,	tygress.
executor,	executrix.	testator,	testatrix.
administrator,	administratrix.		

The sex, or gender, of some nouns, is distinguished by the addition of another noun. Such are the following: Man servant, maid servant. Men fingers, women fingers. Cock sparrow, hen sparrow. And some are known, by prefixing a pronoun; as, he goat, she goat. He ass, she ass.

The gender of some other nouns is known by different words.

Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
Bachelor,	Maid.	Bridegroom,	Bride.
brother,	sister.	boy,	girl.
buck,	doe.	boar,	sow.
			gander,

Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
gander,	goose.	drake,	duck.
bull,	cow.	cock,	hen.
king,	queen.	lad,	lass.
czar,	czarina.	lord,	lady.
landgrave,	landgravine.	man,	woman.
master,	dame.	moor,	morisco.
nephew,	niece.	ram,	ewe.
dog,	bitch.	bullock,	heifer.
sultan,	sultana.	father,	mother.
son,	daughter.	uncle,	aunt.
frar,	nun.	milter,	spawner.
horse,	mare.	widower,	widow.
wizard,	witch.	stag,	hind.
floven,	flut.		

Proper nouns; as, *Thomas, Paris*; the names of virtues; as, *liberality*; of vices; as, *covetousness*; and abstract nouns; as, *courage, cowardice*, &c. and our natural passions; as, *hunger, thirst*, &c. have no plural number;

Nouns, that include a number of particulars; as, *milk, butter, wax, beer, honey*, &c. have no plural number.

Some nouns have no singular number. Such are the following: *Compasses, aloes, annals, bowels, entrails, vitals, snuffers, filings, breeches, orisons, feces, pleiades, cresses, aborigines, archives, ides, tidings, goods, shears, hatches, trowfers, belles lettres, lees, embers, amends, ashes, nones, fetters, lungs, thanks, thambles, shingles,* matins, scissors, clothes, molasses, affets, calends, vespers, pincers, mallows, tongs, dregs, gatherers, orders, † purple, &c.*

And some nouns, having a plural ending, may be connected, in agreement, with verbs either in the singular or plural number. As, *bellows, alms, gallows, victuals, news, riches, measles, physics, billiards, fives*, &c.

When two substantives are united by a hyphen, the former is used in the nature of an adjective; as, *sea-fish, lime-water, apple-juice, onion-seed*.

CASES.

* A cutaneous disorder.

† Episcopal Ordination.

CASES.

In English, there are properly three cases. The nominative, the possessive, and objective.

The nominative case, is generally placed before the verb; is called the agent; and expresses simply the person, place, or thing.

The possessive case denotes property, and answers to the genitive, in Latin and Greek. It is formed by the addition of *s* to the noun, separated by an apostrophe, in this manner; *Peter's case*.

When the person, or thing, to which the other belongs, is expressed by more than one noun, the sign of the possessive case is annexed to the latter; as, *the king of England's troops are brave*. Two nouns are, sometimes, used together, in the possessive case; as, "*Peter's wife's mother lay sick of a fever.*"

The objective case is usually placed after the verb, or preposition, by which it is governed. It is called the objective case; because the action of the person, or nominative, has a particular influence upon it. It is the object on which the action terminates; as, *Hugo loves his books*. In this sentence, the action of loving terminates on the object, *books*.

When the noun ends in *es*, or *ß*, the possessive case is formed by the addition of an apostrophe only; as, *goodness' sake, Empress' beauty, Achilles' shield, eagles' wings*.

A NOUN DECLINED.

	Sing.	Plur.	Sing.	Plur.
Nom.	King	Kings.	Abbeß	Abbeßes.
Poss.	King's	Kings'	Abbeß'	Abbeßes'.
Obj.	King	Kings.	Abbeß	Abbeßes.

P R O N O U N .

A pronoun is a word used instead of a noun, to which it refers; as, *the lady whom he married is very amiable.*

amiable. *Whom*, in this sentence, is used instead of *lady*.

Pronouns have person, gender, number, and case.

They have three cases; the nominative, possessive, and objective.

There are three personal pronouns; *I*, the person who speaks; *thou*, the person to whom a speech is directed; and *he, she, it*, the person spoken of.

It is a term of the greatest universality; and may be applied to any being, or thing, in the universe. Of the Divine Being we say, *it is the Lord who hath done this*. Of an infant we say, *it cries*. We also say, *it was you; who is it? Was it the lady? Was it they? What stone is this? Is it marble?*

It often represents the condition of persons and things; as, *how is it with you? It is hot, that is, the weather*.

It is often used as a relative pronoun; as, *he lost his penknife and Jack found it*.

DECLENSION of PRONOUNS.

First Person.

	Sing.	Plur.
Nom.	I	we.
Poss.	mine	ours.
Obj.	me	us.

Second Person.

	Sing.	Plur.
Nom.	Thou*	ye or you.
Poss.	thine.	yours.
Obj.	thee	you.

Third

* The pronoun *thou* is not used in familiar conversation and writing. Instead of *thou learnest*, we say *you learn*. *Thou* is sometimes used as expressive of the greatest contempt; as, *thou simpleton*. But when applied to the Deity, it is ever expressive of the highest respect; as, *O thou supreme God*. In our adoration of Jehovah, we should ever make use of *thou*. To apply *you* to our Maker would be very irreverent and unbecoming.

The denomination of Christians called *Friends*, make use of *thou, thine, thy, thee*, in their epistolary writing and familiar conversation. These phrases, *thou learnest, he wrought for thee, thy father, this pen is thine*, are good English. But *thou love; art thee well? these are thine horses; with thee and? thee is a good boy*, are ungrammatical. And as they do not answer any valuable purpose in religion, their omission would be of no damage.

Third Person.

	SINGULAR.			PLURAL.
	Mas.	Fem.	Neut.	All genders.
Nom.	He	she	it.	They.
Poss.	his	hers	its.	theirs.
Obj.	him	her	it.	them.

The following pronouns, to express number and case, are thus declined :

	SINGULAR.		PLURAL.	
Nom. and Obj.	One,	Nom. and Obj.	Ones.	
Poss.	one's,	Poss.	ones'.	
Nom. and Obj.	another,	Nom. and Obj.	} other, or others.	
Poss.	another's,	Poss.		others'.
Nom. and Obj.	this,	Nom. and Obj.	these.	
Nom. and Obj.	that,	Nom. and Obj.	those.	

SINGULAR and PLURAL.

Nom. Who.	Poss. Whose.	Obj. Whom.
Whoever.	Whosoever.	Whomever.
Whosoever.	Whosoever.	Whomsoever.
Which.	Whose.	Which.
Whatever.	wanting.	Whatever.
Whatsoever.	wanting.	Whatsoever.

Whose, especially in poetry, is often used as the possessive case of *which*. In prose; as, the tree, which he cut down, *whose* blossoms flourished, was mine.—
In poetry thus :

—“Pure the joy, without alloy,

Whose very rapture is tranquillity.”

YOUNG.

“The lights and shades, *whose* well accorded strife

Gives all the strength and colour of our life.”

POPE.

“Thou hill, *whose* brow the antique structures grace.”

Pronouns, connected with the substantive *self*, are thus declined :

	SING.	PLUR.
Nom.	Hisself.	Theirselfes.
Obj.	himself.	themselfes.
Nom. and Obj.	myself.	
Nom. and Obj.	thyself.	

B

Nom.

	SING.	PLUR.
Nom. and Obj.	ourselves.	ourselves.
Nom. and Obj.	yourself.	yourselves.

Himself and *themselves* are used, by a corruption of language, in the nominative case, instead of *hisself* and *theirselves*. As, *he went himself*; *they came themselves*. In these instances, *himself* and *themselves* cannot be in the objective case. He hurt *himself*; they dressed *themselves*, are proper expressions. In these instances, the pronouns are in the objective case, and governed by the verbs, *hurt* and *dressed*.

Self, plural *selves*, is a noun, importing the same as person;* and when connected with a pronoun possessive, gives a peculiar emphasis to an affirmation.

This combination is, sometimes, used as a reciprocal pronoun; as, passionate men injure *themselves*.

There are six kinds of pronouns; namely, personal, relative, demonstrative, interrogative, definitive, and adjective.

Personal pronouns refer wholly to persons, except in figurative and poetical style. As, "the sun with *his* cheering rays; the moon with *her* silver brightness."

The use of relative pronouns, is to connect thoughts and sentences. They ever refer to some preceding noun, or sentence, which is called, on this account, the antecedent. As, the *General*, *who* commands the army, is an accomplished officer. In this sentence, *General* is the antecedent, *who* is the relative.

The personal pronouns are, often, used both as antecedents and relatives. As, "I, *that* speak in righteousness, am mighty to save." *He*, *who* obeys not the laws, is a bad man. *She*, *who* plays on the spinnet, is a beautiful young lady. In these sentences, *I*, *He*, *She*, are antecedents. The same pronouns are used as relatives. As, "Enoch walked with God, and *he* was not: For God took *him*." "And Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died, and *she* was left, and *her* two sons."

A possessive pronoun, in the plural number, is often a relative to two antecedents in the singular number; as,

* See Bishop Lowth, Mrs. Devis, Messrs. Harrison, Usher, Coote, and Perry.

as, the king and queen of France were lately apprehended, in *their* flight. The possessive pronoun *their* is in the plural number, and refers to *king* and *queen*, the two antecedents.

Who, *whose*, *whom* is used in speaking of persons only, and is either masculine, or feminine. *Which* is applied to inanimate things, and is, consequently, of the neuter gender.

Who, *which*, and *what*, when they have reference to an antecedent noun, are relatives; when they are used, in asking questions, they are interrogative pronouns. *What* and *that*, and *who*, in poetry, often include both the antecedent and relative.

Demonstrative pronouns are used to express, with more plainness, some particular person, or thing.

This refers to a person, or thing, the nearest to us, and *that* refers to a person, or thing, at the greatest distance. As, *this* house is mine; *that* is my brother's.*

* When *this*, *that*, *these*, *those*, refer to a preceding sentence; *this*, or *these*, refers to the latter member, or term; *that*, or *those*, to the former; as,

“ *Self-love*, the spring of motion, acts the soul;
Reason's comparing balance rules the whole:
 Man, but for *that*, no action could attend;
 And but for *this*, were active so no end.”—POPE.

Some place the bliss in action, *some* in ease:
These call it pleasure, and contentment *these*.”—Ibid.

Dr. Lowth's Gram. p. 192.

Pronominal adjectives, by some termed possessive pronouns, are words used to express property, or possession. They are always connected with a noun expressed, or understood. They are the following: *My*, *thy*, *their*, *our*, *your*, *own*. These are joined to nouns, that are expressed. When the noun is understood, they become, *mine*, *thine*, *her's*, *our's*, *your's*, and *their's*. As, *this* is my pen; *that* is *thine*.

Mine and *thine* are used by poets, in lieu of *my* and *thy*; and sometimes by prose writers, when the noun, to which they are united, begins with a vowel. As, *Thine* eyes behold the things that are right.

To mark possession in a more emphatical manner, we often join *own* to possessive pronouns. As, he bought the farm with his *own* money. *Own* is frequently used to express opposition. As, the king rode to St. James's, in his *own* chariot.

This, that, other, some, one, none, are often used as definitive pronouns. They are used to determine and limit the signification of the nouns, to which they refer.

One, when confined to number, is an adjective; as, "God hath made of *one* blood all nations of men." When used in its most unlimited signification, it is a pronoun; as, *One* is astonished at the vices of men.

When the pronoun *other* agrees with plural nouns, *other* is used when the noun is expressed, and *others* when it is understood. As, *Despise not others*; or, *despise not other people*.

None is a negative pronoun. It means *no one* person, or thing, of a collective number. As, "There is *none* that understandeth." It seems most proper to confine this pronoun to the singular number. "None of them are varied to express the gender, or case." "None of them *have* different endings for the numbers,"* are expressions, that may be made more grammatical thus: *None* of them *is* varied to express the gender, or case—*none* of them *has* different endings for the numbers.

Each, every, and either are called distributive pronouns; because they denote the persons, or things, that make-up a number, as taken individually.

Each includes all the individuals of a collective number; as, *each of the men escaped unhurt*. *He met ten beggars, and gave each a crown*.

Every is never separated from its noun, except in legal proceedings. It may be used in construction, with a plural noun, implying a collective idea; as, *every seven years*.

Either signifies only one of two individual persons, or things; as, *you may choose either of these two apples*.

Either is always opposed to *neither*; as, *neither of these two apples is agreeable to me*.

"Neither

* Lowth's Introduction.

"Neither imports not either; that is, not one, nor the other; as, neither of my friends was there; substances in general are of neither sex." COOTE.

All nouns and pronouns whatever, except *I, thou, we, ye, or you*, are, in grammatical construction, of the third person.

Ourselves is peculiar to the royal style; as, "*What then remains? Ourselves?*" An expression which Pope ludicrously applies to the king of the dunces.

A D J E C T I V E.

The adjective is a word used to express the qualities,* or accidents, of persons, actions, or things; as, a *good* scholar, a *virtuous* action, a *fine* picture. *Good, virtuous, and fine*, are adjectives connected with the nouns, *scholar, action* and *picture*; and they are expressive of their qualities.

To know whether a word is an adjective, add the noun *thing*; and if the expression makes sense, it is an adjective. As, *good thing*. What is *good*? *Thing*.

Adjectives, in English, admit no variation on account of gender, number and case. They have variation in the degrees of comparison only.

The degrees of comparison are two; the comparative and superlative. Some grammarians make three degrees of comparison. That they are capable of being in three states, is evident; as, *high, higher, highest*. *High* is the positive state, and expresses the simple quality, without any addition, or diminution. The other two states express an advance; as, *higher, highest*, and may be called the comparative states, or degrees of comparison.

The two degrees of comparison, the *comparative* and *superlative*, are formed by the addition of *r* or *er*, and *st* or *est*, to the positive state.

Long

* By qualities is intended *inherent* qualities, in contradistinction to *abstract* qualities, the names of which are *nouns*; such as, *goodness, sadness, weakness, whiteness, blackness*.

Pos.	Com.	Superl.
Long	longer	longest.
Broad	broadier	broadest.
Stout	stouter	stoutest.
Wise	wiser	wisest.

When the positive state ends in *y*, the *y* is changed into *i*, in the comparative and superlative degrees.

Pos.	Com.	Superl.
Dry	drier	driest.
Pretty	prettier	prettiest.
Happy	happier	happiest.

In general, adjectives, consisting of more than one syllable, are compared by the help of *more* and *most*.

Pos.	Com.	Superl.
Diligent	more diligent	most diligent.
Excellent	more excellent	most excellent.
Frugal	more frugal	most frugal.

In English, as in many other languages, general practice has prevailed over analogy, and has caused, that some adjectives are irregular in forming the degrees of comparison. And not only irregular, but they will not admit the help of *more* and *most* in the comparative and superlative degrees.

Pos.	Com.	Superl.
Near	nearer	nearest, or next.
Much, many	more	most.
Little	less	least.
Bad, ill, evil	worse	worst.
Good	better	best.
Far	farther	farthest.
Fore	former	first.
Late	later, or latter	latest, or last.

Latter and *last* have reference either to time, or place; *later* and *latest* to time only.

Some adjectives make their superlative degree, by the addition of *most* to the positive or comparative state of obsolete words. As, *nethermost*, *uppermost*, *uttermost*.

Adjectives

Adjectives of number are often changed into the nature of nouns, and as such admit the plural number, or they may have an article or an adjective before them. As, *a million of soldiers. Many thousands of pounds.*

Numeral and ordinal adjectives, as, *one, two, &c. first, second, third, &c.* and all adjectives, whose meaning cannot be increased, do not admit the degrees of comparison. Such are *eternal, infinite, everlasting, immortal, extreme, perfect, universal.*

V E R B.

A verb is a word, that expresses the acting, or being, of a person, place, or thing.

Verbs are divided into two kinds only: The active verb, and the neuter verb.

A verb active expresses an action, that passes from the actor and terminates on some object. As, *I wrote the letter; they read their books.* Here, the actions of *writing* and *reading* pass from the actors, *I* and *they*, and terminate on the objects, *letter* and *books*.

A verb neuter expresses simple being, or the manner of being. As, *I am, thou sittest, he stands, we lie down, ye smile, they sleep.*

Verbs active are also called transitive: Because the action terminates on the object, either expressed, or understood. As, *he reads a book;* here the object is expressed. *He reads well.* Here the object is understood, that is, *he reads words, or language, or books well.*

Neuter verbs are called intransitive: Because the action expressed, or the manner of existing, that is represented, does not pass over to any object, but is wholly confined to the actor.

Some verbs are active in the highest sense of the word; as, *he writes, he worketh.* And others express no action, that terminates on an object; as, *I am, I stand.*

Between verbs active and neuter, there is a slow gradation from activity to inactivity. To define this gradation and mark exactly its several steps, is a very nice point.

point. In general, the sense and construction must determine the degree of activity, or inactivity, of verbs.

To run a race, to live a life, &c. have been considered, by Grammarians and Dictionary writers, as having a neuter signification. It is evident, however, that to *run*, implies the highest kind of activity. *To live*, may imply a less degree of action.*

Verbs not only imply action, or being, but they have the signification of *number, person, mode, and time.*

They have two numbers; the singular and plural; as, *I learn, we learn.*

The verb is also of the *first, second, or third person*, according to the noun, or pronoun, which is the nominative, or agent. Thus, *I learn, thou learnest, he learns.* "When it is governed by a noun, it is always in the third person; as, *every man has some failings*; the participles require *restraint.*"

CHARLES COOTE.

To express the different times, in which any thing is represented as acting, or being, we use the following *tenses, or times*: *The present time, the imperfect time, the perfect time, the pluperfect time, the first future time, and the second future time.*

The *present time* expresses an action as now doing; as, *I love, or am loving.*

The *imperfect time* expresses an action, that passed while some other action was doing; as, *I loved or was loving, when he was here.*

The *perfect time* expresses an action, that is determinately past, or completely finished; as, *I have loved, or have been loving, him, ever since our first acquaintance.*

The *pluperfect time* expresses an action, that passed prior to some other point of time specified in the sentence; as, *I had loved, or had been loving, her.*

The *first future time* expresses an action, that is to be transacted hereafter; as, *I shall love, or I shall be loving, him tomorrow.*

The

* *Agere vitam: vivere vitam; currere cursum; somniare somnium!* the verbs in these examples, take an objective case, as active verbs.

The *second future time* expresses an action, that will be accomplished at a future period, or at a period when another action, or event, not yet past, will be present; as *I shall have learned my lesson, before you return.*

“We think, commonly, of no more than the three divisions of time, into the past, the present, and future; and we might imagine, that if verbs had been so contrived, as simply to express these, no more was needed. But language proceeds with much greater subtilty. It splits time into its several moments. It considers time as never standing still, but always flowing: Things past, as more or less perfectly completed; and things future, as more or less remote, by different gradations. Hence the great variety of tenses.”

BLAIR.

MODE is the *manner* of representing action, being, or passion.

The modes are five in number: They are called *the infinitive, the indicative, the imperative, the potential, and conjunctive.*

The infinitive mode expresses action, or being, without any limitation; as, *to love; to learn; to exist.*

The indicative mode is the simple affirmation, or declaration, of an action; as, *I love; I learn; I exist.*

The imperative mode commands a second person to do an action; as, *love thou; learn thou; go; come.*

The potential mode expresses the liberty, power, or obligation, of being, or doing an action. *May, can, must, might, could, should, and would,* are signs of the potential mode. “This mode, or form of the verb, does not, I think, in any case coincide with the indicative. It always has some respect to the power, will, &c. of the agent, by which, even when conditionality is out of the question, it is distinguished from the merely declarative form: The one declares the action done, or to be done, without any further consideration; the other declares not the action done, or to be done, but the *ability, inability, &c.* of the agent to perform that action, and is therefore properly styled the *potential mode.*”

Dr. ASH.
Accordingly,

Accordingly, the auxiliaries, that are expressive of *power, liberty, and obligation*, ever put the verbs, with which they are united, in the potential mode. As, *I can write; I may learn; I must work; I might read, &c.*

An action that is doubtful, or conditional, is expressed in the conjunctive mode. The verb is preceded by a conjunction expressing doubt, or conditionality. As, *if he write; if thou learn.*

It is called the conjunctive mode: Because the verb is preceded by a conjunction, expressed or understood.

And although verbs, in this mode, nearly resemble, in their endings, those verbs that are found in the indicative mode, yet there is some difference; and this difference is established by the practice of the politest speakers and writers, however it may be disregarded by others.*

There are three participles; the present, the perfect, and passed.

The present participle represents the continuance of action; as, *loving, learning.*

The perfect participle represents an action, that is completely finished; as, *loved, learned.*

The passed participle denotes an action, that was completed in time that lately passed; as, *having learned his lesson, he walked abroad for exercise.*

The English language, in forming the modes and times, admits a number of auxiliaries, or helping verbs. They are these: *Could, should, would, may, must, might, can, will, shall, do, be, and have.*

Do, be, and have, are often used as principal verbs; as, *I am; he does his duty, I have a pen.*

THE CONJUGATION OF THE HELPING VERBS.

Present Time.

Sing.	I may,	thou mayest,	he may.
Plur.	We may,	you may,	they may.

Past

* Dr. Lowth, Ash, Priestly, Blair; Messrs Perry, Coote, Usher, Harrison, Curtis, Bingham, and Mrs. Devis agree in maintaining the use of the conjunctive mode.

† *Must* has no variation in number, person, time, or mode.

Past Time.

Sing. I might,	thou mightest,	he might.
Plur. We might,	you might,	they might.
I should,	thou shouldest,	he should.
We should,	you should,	they should.
Sing. I would,	thou wouldest,	he would.
Plur. We would,	you would,	they would.

Future Time.

Sing. I shall,	thou shalt,	he shall.
Plur. We shall,	you shall,	they shall.
I will,	thou wilt,	he will.
We will,	you will,	they will.

Present Time.

Sing. I have,	thou hast,	he has.
Plur. We have,	you have,	they have.
I can,	thou canst,	he can.
We can,	you can,	they can.
I do,	thou dost,	he does.
We do,	you do,	they do.
I am,	thou art,	he is.
We are,	you are,	they are.

Past Time.

Sing. I had,	thou hadst,	he had.
Plur. We had,	you had,	they had.
I could,	thou couldst,	he could.
We could,	you could,	they could.
I did,	thou didst,	he did.
We did,	you did,	they did.
I was,	thou wast,	he was.
We were,	you were,	they were.

Participles.

Present.	Having.	Doing.
Perfect.	Had.	Done.
Passed.	Having had.	Having done.

The verb *to be*, as a principal verb, in combination with the helping verbs, is declined in the following manner:

INFINITIVE

INFINITIVE MODE.		PARTICIPLES.	
Present.	To be.	Being, perf.	Been.
Past.	To have been.	Pass. p.	Having been.

INDICATIVE MODE.

Present Time.

Sing.	I am,	thou art,	he is.
Plur.	We are,	you are,	they are.

This form is sometimes used.

Sing.	I be,	thou beest,	he is.
Plur.	We be,	you be,	they be.

Imperfect Time.

Sing.	I was,	thou wast,	he was.
Plur.	We were,	you were,	they were.

Perfect Time.

Sing.	I have been,	thou hast been,	he has been.
Plur.	We have been,	you have been,	they have been.

Pluperfect Time.

Sing.	I had been,	thou hadst been,	he had been.
Plur.	We had been,	you had been,	they had been.

First Future.

Sing.	I shall be,	thou shalt be,	he shall be.
Plur.	We shall be,	you shall be,	they shall be.

Second Future.

Sing. I shall have been, thou shalt have been, he shall have been. Plur. We shall have been, you shall have been, they shall have been.

The helping verb, *will*, is joined to the future times of this mode.

IMPERATIVE MODE.

Sing.	Be,	be thou,	or do thou be.
Plur.	Be,	be you,	or do you be.

POTENTIAL MODE.

Present Time.

Sing.	I can be,	thou canst be,	he can be.
Plur.	We can be,	you can be,	they can be.

Imperfect

Imperfect Time.

Sing. I could be, thou couldst be, he could be.
 Plur. We could be, you could be, they could be.

Perfect Time.

Sing. I could have been, thou couldst have been, he could have been. Plur. We could have been, you could have been, they could have been.

May, must, might, would, and should, combined with the verb, *to be*, and its variations, are also used in this mode. A small degree of practice will shew how they are combined and declined.

CONJUNCTIVE MODE.

Present Time.

Sing. If I be, if thou be, if he be.
 Plur. If we be, if you be, if they be.

Imperfect Time.

Sing. If I were, if thou wert, if he were.
 Plur. If we were, if you were, if they were.

Perfect Time.

Sing. If I have been, if thou have been, if he have been. Plur. If we have been, if you have been, if they have been.

Pluperfect Time.

Sing. If I had been, if thou had been, if he had been.
 Plur. If we had been, if you had been, if they had been.

First Future.

Sing. If I shall be, if thou shall be, if he shall be.
 Plur. If we shall be, if you shall be, if they shall be.

Second Future.

Sing. If I shall have been, if thou shall have been, if he shall have been. Plur. If we shall have been, if you shall have been, if they shall have been.

The other helping verbs, when united with the verb, *to be*, and preceded by a doubtful, or conditional, conjugation, are also used in this mode. It often happens, that the conjunction is understood, and then the verb

is used in the following manner: *Were I, wert thou, were he. Had I been, had thou been, had he been, &c.* But the conjunction is most commonly expressed.

Conjugation of the verb, *to have*, as a principal verb, in combination with the helping verbs, through the different modes and times.

INFINITIVE MODE.		PARTICIPLES.	
Pres.	To have.	Having.	Had.
Paf.	To have had.	Paf. per.	Having had,

INDICATIVE MODE.

Present Time.

Sing.	I have,	thou hast,	he has.
Plur.	We have,	you have,	they have.

Imperfect Time.

Sing.	I had,	thou hadst,	he had.
Plur.	We had,	you had,	they had.

Perfect Time.

Sing.	I have had,	thou hast had,	he has had.
Plur.	We have had,	you have had,	they have had,

Pluperfect Time.

Sing.	I had had,	thou hadst had,	he had had.
Plur.	We had had,	you had had,	they had had.

First Future.

Sing.	I shall have,	thou shalt have,	he shall have.
Plur.	We shall have,	you shall have,	they shall have.

Second Future.

Sing. I shall have had, thou shalt have had, he shall have had. Plur. We shall have had, you shall have had, they shall have had.

First Future.	Sing. I will have, &c.
Second Future.	Sing. I will have had, &c.

IMPERATIVE MODE.

Sing.	Have, have thou, or do thou have.
Plur.	Have, have you, or do you have.

POTENTIAL MODE.

Present Time.

Sing.	I can have,	thou canst have,	he can have.
Plur.	We can have,	you can have,	they can have.

Imperfect

Imperfect Time.

Sing. I could have, thou couldst have, he could have.
 Plur. We could have, you could have, they could have.

Perfect Time.

Sing. I could have had, thou couldst have had, he could have had.
 Plur. We could have had, you could have had, they could have had.

CONJUNCTIVE MODE.

Present Time.

Sing. If I have, if thou have, if he have.
 Plur. If we have, if you have, if they have.

Imperfect Time.

Sing. If I had, if thou had, if he had.
 Plur. If we had, if you had, if they had.

Perfect Time.

Sing. If I have had, if thou have had, if he have had.
 Plur. If we have had, if you have had, if they have had.

Pluperfect Time.

Sing. If I had had, if thou had had, if he had had.
 Plur. If we had had, if you had had, if they had had.

First Future.

Sing. If I shall have, if thou shall have, if he shall have.
 Plur. If we shall have, if you shall have, if they shall have.

Second Future.

Sing. If I shall have had, if thou shall have had, if he shall have had.
 Plur. If we shall have had, if you shall have had, if they shall have had.

The other helping verbs are occasionally used in combination with the potential and conjunctive modes of *to have*. The young learner will find advantage, by forming, on paper, these several combinations.

Conjugation of a Regular Verb.

INFINITIVE MODE.

Present. To learn. Learning. Pass. learned.
 Past. To have learned. Pass. per. having learned.

PARTICIPLES.

INDICATIVE

INDICATIVE MODE.

Present Time.

Sing. I learn, thou learnest, he learns.*
 Plur. We learn, you learn, they learn.

The helping verb, *do*.

Sing. I do learn, thou dost learn, he does learn.
 Plur. We do learn, you do learn, they do learn.

Imperfect Time.

Sing. I learned, thou learnedst, he learned.
 Plur. We learned, you learned, they learned.

The helping verb, *did*.

Sing. I did learn, thou didst learn, he did learn.
 Plur. We did learn, you did learn, they did learn.

Perfect Time.

Sing. I have learned, thou hast learned, he has learned.
 Plur. We have learned, you have learned, they have learned.

Pluperfect Time.

Sing. I had learned, thou hadst learned, he had learned.
 Plur. We had learned, you had learned, they had learned.

First Future.

Sing. I shall learn, thou shalt learn, he shall learn.
 Plur. We shall learn, you shall learn, they shall learn.

Second Future.

Sing. I shall have learned, thou shalt have learned, he shall have learned.
 Plur. We shall have learned, you shall have learned, they shall have learned.

The helping verb, *will*, in combination with a principal verb, puts the latter in the future times. *Will*, in the first persons singular and plural, promises and threatens; in the second and third persons, it simply foretels an event. *Shall*, in the first person, foretels; in the second and third persons, it commands, promises, and threatens.

IMPERATIVE

* When a verb is used in the solemn style, the ending of the third per. sing. pres. time, is even in *sth*. As, *learnesth, lovesth, workesth, butesth*.

IMPERATIVE MODE.

Sing. Learn, learn thou, or do thou learn.

Plur. Learn, learn you, or do you learn.

POTENTIAL MODE.

Present Time.

Sing. I can learn, thou canst learn, he can learn.

Plur. We can learn, you can learn, they can learn.

Imperfect Time.

Sing. I could learn, thou couldst learn, he could learn.

Plur. We could learn, you could learn, they could learn.

Perfect Time.

N. B. *This time is wanting in the potential mode of most verbs.*

Pluperfect Time.

Sing. I could have learned, thou couldst have learned, he could have learned. Plur. We could have learned, you could have learned, they could have learned.

A verb, in this mode, has no distinct ending for the future time. An adverb, joined to the present time of this mode, qualifies the verb, and denotes the action to be future. As, *I can learn hereafter.*

CONJUNCTIVE MODE.

Present Time.

Sing. If I learn, if thou learn, if he learn.

Plur. If we learn, if you learn, if they learn.

Imperfect Time.

Sing. If I learned, if thou learned, if he learned.

Plur. If we learned, if you learned, if they learned.

Perfect Time.

Sing. If I have learned, if thou have learned, if he have learned. Plur. If we have learned, if you have learned, if they have learned.

Pluperfect Time.

Sing. If I had learned, if thou had learned, if he had learned. Plur. If we had learned, if you had learned, if they had learned.

First Future.

Sing. If I shall learn, if thou shall learn, if he shall learn. Plur. If we shall learn, if you shall learn, if they shall learn.

Second Future.

Sing. If I shall have learned, if thou shall have learned, if he shall have learned. Plur. If we shall have learned, if you shall have learned, if they shall have learned.

To set down all the forms that are made, by the union of the different helping verbs, to a principal verb, would only perplex the learner. The instructor can easily teach him the various combinations.

The preceding is called the *indefinite conjugation*. The definite conjugation is formed by joining the present participle of an active or neuter verb to the helping verb, *to be*. As, *to be loving*; *to be learning*; *to be walking*.

It is called the *definite time*, because it marks the time more determinately than the other combination. For example, *I am learning*, is more expressive of the present performance of the action, than *I learn*.

The definite and indefinite conjugations are mentioned by the best Grammarians to be a division into which the English verbs naturally fall. The following may serve as an abridgment of the definite conjugation.

INDICATIVE MODE.

Present time.	I am learning, &c.
Imperfect time.	I was learning, &c.
Perfect time.	I have been learning, &c.
Pluperfect time.	I had been learning, &c.
First Future.	I shall be learning, &c.
Second Future.	I shall have been learning, &c.

IMPERATIVE MODE.

Sing. Be thou learning, &c. Plur. Be you, &c.

POTENTIAL MODE.

Present time.	I can be learning, &c.
Imp. time.	I could be learning, &c.

Per.

Per. time. *N. B. Wanting.*
 Pluper. time. I could have been learning, &c.

CONJUNCTIVE MODE.

Pres. time. If I be learning, &c.
 Imp. time. If I were learning, &c.
 Per. time. If I have been learning, &c.
 Pluper. time. If I had been learning, &c.
 First Future. If I shall be learning, &c.
 Second Future. If I shall have been learning, &c.

INFINITIVE MODE.

PARTICIPLES.

Pres. time. To be learning.

Per. p. To have been learning. } Been learning.
 } Having been learning.

Conjugation of some irregular Verbs.

INFINITIVE MODE.

PARTICIPLES.

Pres. time. To write.

Writing. Written.

Per. p. To have written.

Having written.

INDICATIVE MODE.

Present Time.

Sing. I write, thou writest, he writes.

Plur. We write, you write, they write.

Helping verb, do.

Sing. I do write, thou dost write, he does write.

Plur. We do write, you do write, they do write.

Imperfect Time.

Sing. I wrote, thou wrotest, he wrote.

Plur. We wrote, you wrote, they wrote.

Helping verb, did.

Sing. I did write, thou didst write, he did write.

Plur. We did write, you did write, they did write.

Perfect Time.

Sing. I have written, thou hast written, he has written.
 Plur. We have written, you have written, they have written.

Pluperfect Time.

Sing. I had written, thou hadst written, he had written.
 Plur. We had written, you had written, they had written.

First Future.

Sing. I shall write, thou shalt write, he shall write.

Plur. We shall write, you shall write, they shall write.

Second Future.

Sing. I shall have written, thou shalt have written, he shall have written. Plur. We shall have written, you shall have written, they shall have written.

The helping verb, *will*, is used, in forming these two last times.

IMPERATIVE MODE.

Sing. Write, write thou, or do thou write.

Plur. Write, write you, or do you write.

POTENTIAL MODE.

Present Time.

Sing. I can write, thou canst write, he can write.

Plur. We can write, you can write, they can write.

Imperfect Time.

Sing. I could write, thou couldst write, he could write. Plur. We could write, you could write, they could write.

Perfect Time—is wanting.

Pluperfect Time.

Sing. I could have written, thou couldst have written, he could have written. Plur. we could have written, you could have written, they could have written.

CONJUNCTIVE MODE.

Present Time.

Sing. If I write, if thou write, if he write.

Plur. If we write, if you write, if they write.

Helping verb, *do*.

Sing. If I do write, if thou do write, if he do write.

Plur. If we do write, if you do write, if they do write.

Imperfect Time.

Sing. If I wrote, if thou wrote, if he wrote.

Plur. If we wrote, if you wrote, if they wrote.

Helping verb, *did*.

Sing. If I did write, if thou did write, if he did write.

Plur. If we did write, if you did write, if they did write.

Perfect Tense.

Sing. If I have written, if thou have written, if he have written. Plur. If we have written, if you have written, if they have written.

Pluperfect Tense.

Sing. If I had written, if thou had written, if he had written. Plur. If we had written, if you had written, if they had written.

First Future.

Sing. If I shall write, if thou shall write, if he shall write. Plur. If we shall write, if you shall write, if they shall write.

Second Future.

Sing. If I shall have written, if thou shall have written, if he shall have written. Plur. If we shall have written, if you shall have written, if they shall have written.

The *helping verbs* are united to the irregular verbs, in all their modes and times. A little attention and practice will instruct the learner how these combinations are formed.

Conjugation of some other irregular Verbs, in those modes and times only, in which they are not united with the *helping verbs*.

INFINITIVE MODE.

Present. To go.

PARTICIPLES.

Going. Past, gone.

INDICATIVE MODE.

Present Time.

Sing. I go, thou goest, he goes.
Plur. We go, you go, they go.

Imperfect Time.

Sing. I went, thou wentest, he went.
Plur. We went, you went, they went.

IMPERATIVE

IMPERATIVE MODE.

Sing. Go, go thou.

Plur. Go, go you.

CONJUNCTIVE MODE.

Present Time.

Sing. If I go, if thou go, if he go.

Plur. If we go, if you go, if they go.

Imperfect Time.

Sing. If I went, if thou went, if he went.

Plur. If we went, if you went, if they went.

INFINITIVE MODE.

Present. To let.

PARTICIPLES.

Letting. Past, let.

INDICATIVE MODE.

Present Time.

Sing. I let, thou lettest, he lets.

Plur. We let, you let, they let.

IMPERATIVE MODE.

Sing. Let, let thou.

Plur. Let, let you.

CONJUNCTIVE MODE.

Sing. If I let, if thou let, if he let.

Plur. If we let, if you let, if they let.

Dare, signifying to venture, is declined in the following manner.

INFINITIVE MODE.

Present. To dare.

PARTICIPLE.

Daring.

INDICATIVE MODE.

Present Time.

Sing. I dare, thou darest, he dares.

Plur. We dare, you dare, they dare.

Imperfect Time.

Sing. I durst, thou durst, he durst.

Plur. We durst, you durst, they durst.

IMPERATIVE MODE.

Sing. Dare, dare thou.

Plur. Dare, dare you.

CONJUNCTIVE

CONJUNCTIVE MODE.

Present Time.

Sing. If I dare, if thou dare, if he dare.
 Plur. If we dare, if you dare, if they dare.

Imperfect Time.

Sing. If I durst, if thou durst, if he durst.
 Plur. If we durst, if you durst, if they durst.

Dare, signifying *to provoke*, &c. is a regular verb, and declines in all its modes and times, like the verb, *to learn*.

Ought, signifying duty, or obligation, is properly an irregular defective verb. When *ought* is followed by a verb in the present time of the infinitive mode, it expresses present time. As, *they ought to conduct better*. But when followed by a verb in the past time of the infinitive mode, it is expressive of antecedent, or past, obligation. As, *They ought to have conducted better*. This verb is ever followed by another verb, in the infinitive mode, either expressed or understood. This verb has been considered as the past time of the verb, *to owe*, and was formerly used in the sense, in which we now make use of *owed*. As, "Every one *ought* him as faithful service as they."* The best writers now use the verb *to owe*, as a regular verb, and *ought* as irregular. The latter is thus declined.

INDICATIVE MODE.

Present Time.

Sing. I ought, thou oughtest, he ought.
 Plur. We ought, you ought, they ought.
 "The verb, *ought*, is only used in the indicative."

DR. ASH.

INDICATIVE MODE.

Present Time.

Sing. I wot—he wotteth. Plur.—Wot ye?
 they wot. Past time thus: I wist—he wist—wist ye?
 they wist.

The defective verb, *woth*, has only the first and third persons, in the present time, indicative mode. As,
woth

* Sir Thomas More.

quoth I, quoth he. The nominative ever follows this verb. *Methinks, methought,* are Saxon defective verbs.

BISHOP LOWTH.

The verb, *to will*, signifying willingness, or disposition, of the mind, is a regular verb. As, *I will, thou willest, he wills, or willeth, I willed, thou willedst, &c. I have willed, &c. I had willed, &c. I shall will, &c. I shall have willed, &c.*

That the verb, *let*, is not a sign of the imperative mode is very plain from its conjugation. It is of itself a principal verb; and, when immediately followed by another verb, it expresses the idea of permitting, or suffering, an action to be done. The verb that follows *let*, is ever in the infinitive mode, the preposition *to* being understood. As, *let him write*; that is, *permit him to write. Let him go*; i. e. *suffer him to go.*

In making three persons in the imperative mode, Grammarians have committed an error. For these expressions, *let me learn, let him learn, let us learn, let them learn,* are evidently addresses made to a second person.

Let, as observed, has the signification of *permit*, or *suffer*. *Permit me to learn, suffer him to learn.* We do not command, or exhort, ourselves. *Let me learn,* is not a command given to myself, but to a second person. As, *let thou me*, that is, *suffer thou me to learn.* And, when we address commands to a third person, we ever use the instrumentality of a second person. When we say, *let them learn*, the meaning evidently is, *suffer thou them to learn.* And when we say, *let us learn*, we mean *suffer thou, or suffer you, us to learn.*

To add a particular emphasis to an affirmation, we use the auxiliaries *do* and *did*. *I do learn.* "Here I am, for thou *didst* call me." They are also used in negative and interrogative sentences. As, *I do not hate him. Do you hate him?* To prevent the repetition of one or more verbs, in the same, or following sentence, we frequently make use of *d* and *did*. As,

Jack

Jack learns the English language as fast as Harry does ; that is, as fast as Harry learns. “The imperative of *do* is frequently used in phrases implying a prohibition ; as, *do not strike him ; do not be idle.*”

CHARLES COOTE.

Hath is used in the serious and solemn style, and *has* in the familiar and polite style. *Alto doth* is used in the serious and solemn style ; *does* is peculiar to the familiar style.

When a question is asked, *shall* and *will* change their signification. *We shall love ; they will love*, express event only. But *shall he love ?* refers to the will of another person. And *will you love ?* denotes intention.

May denotes liberty ; as, *I may do as I please with my own.* Permission ; as, *they may play if they please.*

A desire, or wish, *may you have a happy journey ; may I have health.* Possibility of an event, *it may happen well ; it may prove bad.*

Can expresses the power, or ability, of an agent ; as, *he can write well.*

Could and *might*, being the hypothetical form of *can* and *may*, have a similar meaning, but they suppose the intervention of some hindrance, or impediment, that obstructs the doing of an action. As, *he is a promising youth, and might make a good scholar, if his father would give him opportunity.* *He could come if he pleased.*

Should often refers to antecedent time ; as, *if he had been there, I should have known it.* And it is often expressive of future time ; as, *I should be pleased if you would do it.* *Should it happen according to my wish, I will inform you.*

When a helping verb is joined to a principal verb, the latter is never varied ; as, *I can learn, thou canst learn, he can learn.*

The helping verbs are never connected with the past time of the irregular verbs, that are arranged in the third subsequent class. *I have written ; I have spoken ; thou hast given ; he has fallen*, are grammatical phrases. But, *I have wrote ; I have spoke ; thou hast gave ; he has*

D

fell,

fell, are barbarous indeed. As barbarous, however, as they are, the best of writers and speakers very often fall into the mistake of connecting the helping verb *to have*, with the perfect time of the principal verb. This is a real mistake. And to avoid mistakes of this kind, the scholar should be directed to commit to memory the subjoined catalogue of irregular verbs.

Those verbs, that make the imperfect time and participle in *ed*, are esteemed regular. All that deviate from this rule, are esteemed irregular.

The English language contains many irregular verbs. Some of them have the *present time*, the *past time*, and the *participle* alike. Some are alike only in the *past time* and *participle*. And others vary in the *present*, *past*, and *participle*.

FIRST CLASS OF IRREGULAR VERBS.

<i>Present.</i>	<i>Imperfect.</i>	<i>Participle.</i>
Beset	befet	befet
bet	bet	bet
bewet	bewet	bewet
bit	bit	bit
blurt	blurt	blurt
burst	burst	burst
cast	cast	cast
chat	chat	chat
cost	cost	cost
cut	cut	cut
dispread	dispread	dispread
enrapt	enrapt	enrapt
forecast	forecast	forecast
hit	hit	hit
knit	knit	knit
hurt	hurt	hurt
let	let	let
put	put	put
read	read	read
rent	rent	rent
rid	rid	rid
set	set	set

shed

<i>Pres.</i>		<i>Imperf.</i>		<i>Part.</i>
shed		shed		shed
shred		shred		shred
shut		shut		shut
slit		slit		slit
split		split		split
spread		spread		spread
thrust		thrust		thrust
wet		wet		wet

SECOND CLASS OF IRREGULAR VERBS.

<i>Pres.</i>	<i>Im. Part.</i>	<i>Pres.</i>	<i>Im. Part.</i>
Abide	abode	lose	lost
bend	bent	make	made
beseech	besought	mean	meant
bestick	bestuck	meet	met
bethink	bethought	pay	paid
bleed	bled	pen	pent
breed	bred	rend	rent
bring	brought	say	said
buy	bought	seek	sought
catch	caught	send	sent
dare	durit	sell	sold
deal	dealt	shoot	shot
feed	fed	sleep	slept
feel	felt	smell	smelt
fight	fought	spend	spent
find	found	spell	spelt
flee	fled	stand	stood
fling	flung	stick	stuck
forelay	forelaid	sweat	swet
foresay	foresaid	sweep	swept
forespent	forespent	teach	taught
grind	ground	tell	told
have	had	think	thought
hear	heard	unbend	unbent
inlay	inlaid	wind	wound
keep	kept	weed	wed
lay	laid	weep	wept
lead	led	win	won
leave	left		
lend	lent		

To this class may be added the following verbs, which, in the past time and participle, are often regular, and often irregular.

<i>Pres.</i>	<i>Imperf.</i>	<i>Part.</i>
Aborb	aborbed	aborbed
awake	abforpt awaked awoke	abforpt awaked
bedrop	bedropped	bedropped
bereave	bedropt bereaved	bedropt bereaved
build	bereft buildid	bereft buildid
burn	built burned	built burned
clothe	burnt clothed	burnt clothed
dig	clad digged	clad digged
dream	dug dreamed	dug dreamed
dwelt	dreamt dwelled	dreamt dwelled
creep	dwelt creeped	dwelt creeped
fetch	crope or crept fetchid	crept fetchid
freight	fetcht or fet freighted	fetcht freighted
geld	freight	fraught
gild	gelded	gelded
gird	gelt gilded	gelt gilded
hang	gilt girded	gilt girded
heat	girt hanged	girt hanged
	hung heated	hung heated
	heat*	heat*

* Pronounced *bet*.

heave

<i>Pres.</i>	<i>Imperf.</i>	<i>Part.</i>
heave	heaved hove,	heaved hoven
help	helped	helped holpen
hew	hewed	hewed hewn
leap	leaped	leaped
lift	leapt lifted	leapt lifted
light	light lighted	light lighted
quit	light* quitted	light* quitted
smell	quit smelled	quit smelled
strew	smelt strewed	smelt strewed
toss	strew tossed	tossed toft
wake	waked woke	waked
whip	whipped whipt	whipped whipt
work	worked wrought	worked wrought

The following are regular in the past time, and irregular in the participle.

<i>Pres.</i>	<i>Imperf.</i>	<i>Part.</i>
Bake	baked	baked or baken
fold	folded	folded or folden
grave	graved	graved or graven
lade	laded	laden
load	loaded	loaded or loaden
melt	melted	melted or molter
mow	mowed	mowed or mown
shape	shaped	shaped or shapen
shave	shaved	shaved or shaven

* Pronounced *lit.*

<i>Pres.</i>	<i>Imperf.</i>	<i>Part.</i>
faw	fawed	fawed or fawn
shear	sheared	sheared or shorn
shew	shewed	shewed or shewn
show	showed	showed or shown
fow	fowed	fowed or fown
swell	swelled	swelled or swollen
itrow	strowed	strowed or strown
wash	washed	washed or washen
wax	waxed	waxed or waxen
wreathe	wreathed	wreathed or wreathen
wriethe	wriethed	wriethed or writen

Some verbs of *Saxon* original, have dropped the termination in *en*, of which the consequence is, that the participle of the past time is similar to one form of the past time of the verb. The following verbs come under this remark.

<i>Pres.</i>	<i>Imperf.</i>	<i>Part.</i>
Cling	clang or clung	clung
ring	rang or rung	rung
sing	sang or sung	fung
shrink	shrank or shrunk	shrunck
sling	slang or slung	slung
stink	stank or stunk	stunk
spin	span or spun	spun
spring	sprang or sprung	sprung
sting	stang or stung	stung
string	strang or strung	strung
swim	swam or swam	swum
swing	swang or swung	swung
wring	wrang or wrang	wrung

THIRD CLASS OF IRREGULAR VERBS.

<i>Pres.</i>	<i>Imperf.</i>	<i>Part.</i>
Am	was	been
arise	arose	arisen
backbite	backbit	backbitten
backslide	backslid	backslidden
bear	bare or bore	born or borne
beat	beat	beaten
become	became	become
besal	besel	besallen

<i>Pres.</i>	<i>Imperf.</i>	<i>Part.</i>
beget	begat or begot	begotten
begin	began	begun
behold	beheld	beheld
		beholden
bespeak	bespake	bespoken
	bespoke	
bespit	bespat	bespitten
bestride	bestrode	bestriden
betook	betake	betaken
bid	bade	bidden
bind	bound	bound
		bounden
bite	bit	bitten
blow	blew	blown
break	brake or broke	broken
chide	chode or chid	chidden
choose	chose	chosen
cleave	elave	cloven
	clove	cleft
crow	crew	crowed
die	died	dead
do	did	done
drink	drank	drunken
		drunk
drive	drove or drave	driven
eat	ate	eaten
fall	fell	fallen
fly	flew	flown
forbear	forbare	forborn
	forbore	
forbid	forbad	forbidden
forego	forewent	foregone
foreknow	foreknew	foreknown
forerun	foreran	forerun
foresee	forefaw	foreseen
foreshow	foreshew	foreshown
forget	forgot	forgotten
forlake	forlook	forfaken
forswear	forware	forsworn
freeze	froze	frozen

Pres.

get
give
go
grow
hide
hold
interweave
ride
rise
run
rive
sink

see
feethe
shake
shine
shoe
shrink
shrive
sit
slay
slide
smite
speak
spit
steal
stride
strike
strive
sweat
take
tear
thrive
throw
tread
wear
weave
write

Imperf.

gat or got
gave
went
grew
hid
held
interwove
rode
rose
ran
rived
fank
fank
faw
fod
shook
shone
shod
shrank
shrove
fat
flew
flid
fmote
spake or spoke
spat
stole
strode
struck
strove
sware or swore
took
tare or tore
throve
threw
trode
ware or wore
wove
wrote

Part.

gotten
given
gone
grown
hidden
holden
interwoven
ridden
risen
run
riven
funken
fank
seen
fodden
shaken
shined
shodden
shrunken
shriven
sitten
slain
sidden
smitten
spoken
spitten
stolen
stridden
stricken
strived, striven
sworn
taken
torn
thriven
thrown
trodden
worn
woven
written

The helping verb, *to have*, is always followed by the perfect participle of another verb. Some of our most elegant and correct writers, however, very often deviate from this rule. They connect the verb, *to have*, with the past time of the radical verb. The following sentences may be found in the best authors: *Have spoke; have strove; hath bore; had stole; was wove; have swam; has wrote; have mistook; have fell; have took.*

“There is not, says Bishop Lowth, so many as a hundred verbs, which have a distinct and different form for the past time active and the participle perfect or passive. The general bent and turn of the language is towards the other form; which makes the past time and participle the same. This general inclination and tendency of the language seems to have given occasion to the introducing of a very great corruption: By which the form of the past time is confounded with that of the participle in these verbs, few, in proportion, which have them quite different from one another. This confusion prevails greatly in common discourse, and is too much authorized by the example of some of our best writers. Thus it is said, *he begun*, for *he began*; *he run*, for *he ran*; *he drunk*, for *he drank*: The participle being used instead of the past time. And much more frequently the past time instead of the participle: As, *I had wrote, it was wrote*, for *I had written, it was written*. We should be immediately shocked at *I have know, I have saw, I have gave*, &c. but our ears are grown familiar with *I have wrate, I have drank, I have bore*, &c. which are altogether as barbarous.”

PARTICIPLE.

A participle is a word derived from a verb, and partakes of the nature of a verb, an adjective, and noun.

The participle, so far as it expresses the circumstance of the noun to which it is joined by a neuter verb, has the nature of an adjective: But when it implies the action of some agent, it then has the nature of a verb. As, the *flying clouds*; here *flying* has the nature of an adjective.

adjective. *The clouds are flying*; here *flying* has the nature of a verb. *I heard of his selling goods*; here *selling* has the nature of both a noun and verb. In the nature of a noun, it is governed by the preposition *of*; and in the nature of a verb, it governs the noun, *goods*, in the objective.

In English, we have no passive verbs. That form of expression, which answers to the Greek and Latin passive verbs, is made by the combination of a helping verb and a participle of the past time.

When the verb is active, the agent is placed before the verb, and the verb expresses an action, that terminates on the subsequent object. Thus: *I have written a letter*; *I have been writing a letter*; *I have taught them*; *he has moved them*, are active forms; they express actions, that terminate on the objects following them.

When the form of expression answers to the Greek and Latin passive verbs, the object precedes the verb, and the agent follows the verb, with a preposition preceding it. As, *the letter was written by me*; *he was moved by them*. Sometimes the agent is not expressed. As, *he was taught*, at College; that is, *by his preceptor*. *He was killed*; that is, *by the enemy*.

In this passive form, the participle is ever of the past time; it expresses the circumstance of the noun, or pronoun, and has the nature of an adjective.

When the participle partakes of the circumstances and action of a noun, it has the nature of a verb. As, *the man is reading*. *I am viewing a fine prospect*.

Participles of the present time, in union with a helping verb, do sometimes put on the passive form. As, *the house is building*; *the grain is selling*; *the books are printing*.

“The present participle is sometimes changed into a substantive; as, *he loves singing and dancing*.” HARRISON. And when thus changed, it may serve as a nominative, or objective case. As, *riding is a great preservative of health*. *He loves reading*. Here *reading* is the objective after *loves*.

Participles

Participles often become mere adjectives ; and then they may have the degrees of comparison. As,

An accomplished,	more accomplished,	most accomplished <i>scholar</i> .
A loving,	more loving,	most loving <i>son</i> .

A D V E R B S.

Adverbs are words joined to adjectives, participles, verbs and adverbs. They are used to qualify the meaning of the word to which they are joined. As, *extremely fine weather*. *Extremely* is an adverb qualifying the adjective *fine*. *He is secretly contriving evil*. *Secretly* is an adverb qualifying the participle *contriving*. *He behaves well*. *Well* is an adverb qualifying the verb *behaves*. *He speaks very gracefully*. *Very* is an adverb qualifying the other adverb *gracefully*.

Adverbs are also used to restrain, or enlarge, the meaning of words. As, *he gave sparingly ; they gave bountifully*.

Adverbs may be divided into as many kinds as there are circumstances of an action.

Consequently we have adverbs of *time* ; as, *now, seldom, often, &c.* Of *place* ; as, *here, there, within, without, &c.* Of *affirmation* ; as, *indeed, yes, &c.* Of *negation* ; as, *no, not, never, &c.* Of *interrogation* ; as, *how, why, &c.* Of *order* ; as, *first, secondly, next, &c.* Of *number* ; as, *once, twice, thrice, &c.* Of *quantity* ; as, *enough, much, abundantly, &c.* Of *diminution* ; as, *little, scarcely, thinly*.

Several words in our language, are sometimes used as adjectives, and sometimes as adverbs. As, *this pen is better than your's*. Here *better* is an adjective. *Thomas reads better than Peter*. Here *better* is an adverb. *The assembly spent much time in debating the question*. Here *much* is an adjective. *She is much handsomer than her sister*. Here *much* is an adverb.

To-day, to-morrow, and yesterday have been considered by some Grammarians, as adverbs. And, although they are sometimes used adverbially, yet they are more properly nouns. *To-day* is a combination of the preposition *to* and the noun *day* ; *to-morrow*, of the preposition *to* and

and the noun *morrow*; *yesterday*, of the adjective *yester* and the noun *day*.

Adverbs of quality, or manner, are of frequent use in the English language. They are generally formed by the addition of *ly* to an adjective or participle. When the adjective ends in *ble*, the *e* is changed into *y*. As, *changeable*, *changeably*; *able*, *ably*; *admirable*, *admirably*. The termination *ly*, say Gramarians, is derived from the Saxon *liche*, signifying *like*; as, *ably*, that is, *like able*.

When the adjective ends in *y*, the *y* is changed into *i* in the formation of the adverb. As, *merry*, *merrily*.

Adverbs, in general, admit no variation, in forming the degrees of comparison. To this rule, however, there are some exceptions. As,

Soon, sooner, soonest. *Often, oftener, oftenest.*

If the adverb ends in *ly*, *more* and *most* are used in forming the comparative and superlative degrees. As,

Elegantly, more elegantly, most elegantly.
Wisely, more wisely, most wisely.

Two negatives that are used in the same sentence, have the force of an affirmative. As, he will *not* do it *never*; that is, *he will do it*. But when *only* intervenes between two negatives, it destroys the force of affirmation. As, he was *not only not* churlish, but very revengeful.

The beauty of composition depends, very much, on the proper use of adverbs. In general, they should be placed as near as possible to the words they are designed to qualify. As, he walks *gracefully*; she is *very* handsome; they are *cunningly* plotting to escape; that picture is *very* badly executed.

The adverb should ever be placed between the auxiliary and the principal verb. As, he has *frequently* changed his sentiments. The ladies were *genteelly* dressed. The ancients were *very much* addicted to superstition.

In negative sentences, the adverb must be placed after the verb. As, "I go, Sir, and went *not*." He speaks

speaks *not* one word. But the auxiliary, *do*, is most generally used. As, "Do not I hate them that hate thee?"

P R E P O S I T I O N S.

Prepositions are used to express the relation, or connexion, between words and sentences.

The following are the principal prepositions in use : above, about, after, against, along, among, amongst, around, at, before, behind, below, beneath, beside, besides, between, betwixt, beyond, by, concerning, down, during, except, excepting, for, from, in, into, near, nigh, of, off, on, over, round, since, through, to, towards, up, upon, under, with, within, without.

The following are called inseparable prepositions : *a, co* or *con, de, dis, in, mis, re, un, &c.*

Prepositions are frequently used as adverbs. *On hearing his adversity.* Here *on* is a preposition put before the participle, *hearing*. *Come on, brave boys.* Here *on* is an adverb, qualifying the verb, *come*.

When two prepositions are placed together, the first is used adverbially. As, he came *down* from the mountain. Here *down* is used adverbially. He fell *down* the precipice. Here *down* is a preposition. "As we were driven *up* and *down* in Adria." Here *up* and *down* are adverbs. He went *up* the hill. Here *up* is a preposition. *Up* is sometimes used as a verb, in the imperative mode. "*Up*, let us be going."

C O N J U N C T I O N S.

Conjunctions are words used to connect nouns, verbs and sentences.

Some Grammarians have arranged them under many different classes. But this arrangement serves more to perplex, than instruct, the learner.

The best and plainest division is *conjunctive* and *disjunctive*. The conjunctive connects many words and sentences together, and continues the sense. As, two, and three, and four make nine. The disjunctive joins together words and sentences ; but expresses opposition in the sense. As, "The hand of the diligent shall bear rule ; but the slothful shall be under tribute."

E

Several

Several words, belonging to other parts of speech, are occasionally used as conjunctions. Such are the following: *provided*, *except*, verbs; *both*, an adjective; *either*, *neither*, *that* pronouns; *being*, *seeing*, participles; *before*, *since*, *for*, prepositions.

He *provided* money for his journey. Here *provided* is a verb. I will do it, *provided* you lend some help. Here *provided* is a conjunction, that connects the two sentences. *Except* him; here *except* is a verb in the imperative mode. "Paul said, *except* these abide in the ship—" Here *except* is a conjunction. *Excepting* is also used as a participle and conjunction.

Both horses were stolen. Here *both* is an adjective joined to the noun horses. He is *both* virtuous and brave. Here *both* is a conjunction.

"Christ *being* the chief corner stone." "He endured, as *seeing* him who is invisible." Here *being* and *seeing* are used as participles. "Being this reception of the gospel was so anciently foretold."* "Seeing all the congregation are holy."† Here *being* and *seeing* are used as conjunctions.

You may take *either* of the books. Here *either* is a pronoun. He will *either* sail for Canton or Japan. Here *either* is a conjunction corresponding with *or*. You shall take *neither* of the books. Here *neither* is a pronoun. He will *neither* study nor work. Here *neither* is a conjunction corresponding with *nor*.

That, when it agrees with a noun, either expressed, or understood; or when it can be changed into *which*, *who*, and *whom*, is ever a pronoun. As, *that* man; *whose* is *that*? That is, *whose* pen is *that* pen? The book, *that* he gave me; or the book, *which* he gave me. *That*, on all other occasions, is a conjunction.

He came *before* him; he wrought *for* me; "Such as was not *since* the beginning." Here, *before*, *for*, and *since*, are prepositions. "For my fighting cometh *before* I eat; *for* he maketh his sun to rise on the evil, *since* man was placed on the earth." Here, *before*, *for*, and *since*, are conjunctions.

The conjunction, *as*, is often used in the nature of a pronoun relative. Examples: the Congress is composed:

* Bishop Pearson.

† Bible.

posed of such characters, *as* do honour to their country. The federal constitution is such, *as* manifests the greatest jurisprudence. Such actions, *as* you describe, are very dishonourable. *As*, however, is never used in the nature of a relative, except after the pronoun, *such*,* and the adjectives, *much* and *many*. The paper, *as* he bought, is good. This is improper. It ought to be, the paper, *that* he bought.

INTERJECTIONS.

Interjections are words, that denote some sudden passion, or emotion, of the mind. *As*, huzza! alas! hush! pho! O! ah!

Some other parts of speech are occasionally used as interjections. *As*, horrid! strange! heavens! amazing! dreadful!

S Y N T A X.

SYNTAX teaches the proper construction of language, and shews the connexion that one word bears to another.

There is a mutual connexion between the nominative case and the verb; the substantive and adjective; the noun, pronoun, and participle.

This connexion is called the concord, or agreement, of words.

One word, also, has influence upon another, and causeth it to be in some particular case, mode, number, and person. This influence is called the regimen, or government, of words.

To parse the English language grammatically, it is necessary, that we make use of the following rules.

RULE I.

The nominative case governs the verb.

As, Dick is idle. Thou hatest thy books. They conduct well.

ILLUSTRATION.

1. *Dick* is a noun, in the nominative case, third person, singular number; and governs the verb, *is*, in the same number and person.

2. *Thou*

* Charles Coote.

2. *Thou* is a pronoun, in the nominative case, second person, singular number ; and governs *katest*, in the same number and person.

3. *They* is a pronoun, in the nominative case, third person, plural number ; and governs the verb, *conduct*, in the same number and person.

OBSERVATIONS.

1. To find the nominative case, that governs the verb, ask the question, who ? which ? what ? And the word, that answers the question, is the nominative case. As, who is idle ? Answer, *Dick*. *Dick* is, therefore, the nominative case, to the verb, *is*.

2. Elegance, in the construction of sentences, often requires, that the nominative word be not expressed ; that is, written, or spoken. This is especially the case, when the verb is in the imperative mode. As, *come on ; learn ; read*.

3. When a question is asked, or a command given, the nominative follows the helping verb, or the principal verb. As, *shall he come ? Go thou*.

4. The words that compose a sentence, are frequently transposed from their natural order. When this happens, the nominative case does not take the lead ; but is placed at some distance from the verb.

RULE II.

The verb agrees with its nominative case, in number and person.

As, I love ; thou readeſt ; he learns ; we are ; ye run ; they sleep.

ILLUSTRATION.

1. If the nominative case be in the singular, or plural, number, then the verb must be in the singular, or plural, number. And if the nominative case be of the first, second, or third, person, then the verb must be of the first second, or third, person.

2. In the preceding examples, *love* is in the first person singular, and agrees with the pronoun *I*. *Readeſt* is in the second person singular, and agrees with *thou*. *Learns* is in the third person singular, and agrees with *he*. *Are* is in the first person plural, and agrees with *we*.

Run

Run is in the second person plural, and agrees with *ye*.
Sleep is in the third person plural, and agrees with *they*.

OBSERVATIONS.

1. When *you*, a plural pronoun, is applied to an individual, the verb must not be in the singular, but plural number.

The following sentences are ungrammatical: "I am just now as well as when you *was* here." POPE. "Knowing, that you *was* my old master's friend." SPEC. The verb, *was*, is either of the first, or third, person singular. And, to use it with a pronoun of the second person plural, is contrary to the idiom of our language. The word *you*, even when applied to one person, is plural, and should never be connected with a singular verb. But common conversation offends daily against this remark. "*Was* you there? I heard, that you *was* unwell; I was told, that you *was* gone," are expressions that drop from the tongue of the learned, and unlearned. And they are as ungrammatical as, *is* you there? *is* you unwell?

2. Sometimes a whole sentence is used as the nominative case to a following verb. In this case, the verb is ever in the third person. As, *that virtue will be rewarded, and vice punished*, in the next state of existence, is a doctrine plainly taught in the Bible. The sentence in *Italics*, is used as the nominative case to the verb, *is*; and answers the question, what? What is a doctrine plainly taught in the Bible? Answer, *that virtue will be rewarded, and vice punished*.

3. Every verb has a nominative case, either expressed, or understood. Consequently the English language makes no use of impersonal verbs. *It rains; it thunders; it lightens; it is hot; it is warm; it is cold; it snows; it freezes; it pleases me; it grieves me; it rejoices me*, have been considered as impersonal verbs. But, in all these instances, *it* is a pronoun relative, supplying the place of some antecedent noun, that is understood. For example: *It pleases me*. What? Your conduct. *It grieves me*. What? His misfortune. *It is hot*. What? The weather, iron, water, &c. *It freezes*. What? The water, ground, &c.

False Grammar.

I loves ; thou reads ; John learn ; we cometh.

RULE III.

Neuter verbs occasionally govern either the nominative, or objective case, after them.

ILLUSTRATION.

1. Thou *art* the *man*. *Man* is in the nominative case, and is governed by the verb, *art*. Intemperate men *become* nuisances to society. *Nuisances* is a noun, in the nominative case, plural, and is governed by the neuter verb, *become*. A calf *becomes* an ox. *Ox* is in the nominative case ; and is governed by the verb, *becomes*. "Who *move* majestically the *queen* of heaven." VIRGIL. *Queen* is a noun in the nominative, and is governed by the neuter verb, *move*.

"She *looks* a goddess, and she *moves* a queen."*

Looks and *moves* are here used as neuter verbs, and they govern *goddess* and *queen* in the nominative case.

"Tom *struts* a soldier, open, bold and brave :

Will sneaks a scriv'ner, an exceeding knave." POPE.

"Before the glimmering *moon* with borrowed light,

Shone *queen* amid the silver host of night :

High in the heavens *thou* reign'dst superior *Lord*,

By suppliant angels worship'd and ador'd." DR. DWIGHT.

These examples, with many others that might be adduced, clearly evince, that neuter verbs take a nominative case after them. They do not express actions, that terminate on the nouns following.

2. OBJECTIVE CASE. I knew it to be *him*. *Him* is a pronoun in the objective case, and is governed by the neuter verb, *to be*. "To them gave he *power* to become the *sons* of God."† *Sons* is in the objective case, and is governed by the neuter verb, *to become*.

N. B. If a noun, or pronoun, in the nominative case, precede a neuter verb, then the noun, or pronoun, which follows, will be in the nominative. But, if a noun, or pronoun, in the objective case, precede a neuter verb, then the noun, or pronoun, which follows the verb, will be in the objective.

N. B.

* Dryden. -

† Johp i. 12.

N. B. In this latter state, the neuter verb is always in the infinitive mode.

OBSERVATIONS.

1. When an objective case precedes a neuter verb, then the noun, or pronoun, that follows the verb, is ever in the objective. I thought *it to be her*. *It* is in the objective case, and is governed by the verb, *thought*. *Her* is in the objective case, and follows the verb, *to be*, by which it is also governed. He taught his *sons to become* wise and virtuous citizens. *Sons* is in the objective case, and governed by the verb, *taught*. *Citizens* is a noun in the objective case plural, following the verb, *to become*, and is governed by it.

2. The Latin grammar says, that “verbs substantive, (or neuter)—and verbs of gesture, have the same case after, as before, them.” This rule appears to be founded in the very nature of language. All languages make use of neuter verbs, that govern nouns and pronouns after them, either in the nominative, or objective, case.

3. Many verbs, that have an active signification, are occasionally employed as neuters. As, his fortune *increases*; the storm *abates*.

4. Most neuter verbs may be converted into an active meaning, by annexing a preposition to them. As, he *winks at her*. *Winks* is originally a neuter verb; but being followed by a preposition, it has an active meaning. Sometimes a preposition is combined with a neuter verb, and this combination gives it an active force. As, he overslept *himself*. *Himself* is in the objective, and governed by *overslept*. This mode of expression, however, is not very elegant.

5. Neuter verbs, that are unconnected with prepositions, should never be used in an active signification.

“O thou Seer, go, flee *thee* away into the land of Judah.” BIBLE. *Thee* is improperly used in this instance. “*To vie* charities.” “*To agree* sacred with profane chronology.” *To vie*, and *to agree*, are neuter verbs. It is, therefore, improper to use them as having an active signification.

6. But

6. But some verbs are occasionally used, sometimes in an active, and sometimes in a neuter signification. As, the flying clouds *separate* from one another. Here *separate* is a neuter verb, not admitting an objective word after it. "He shall *separate* them, as a shepherd divideth his sheep." Here *separate* is an active verb, and governs *them* in the objective case.

False Grammar.

I took it to be *he*; thou art the *man's*; it was *him*; it is *me*; it becomes *he*; it behoves *ſhe*.

RULE IV.

A neuter verb, standing between two nominative cases, one in the singular and the other in the plural number, must agree, in number and person with the first.

As, *men are* vanity; " *words are* wind;"* the *weight is* fifty pounds.

ILLUSTRATION.

1. In the two first sentences, *men* and *words* are in the plural number; they take the lead as agents, and elegance demands, that they have verbs, in the plural, to agree with them.

2. In the last sentence, *weight* is a noun, in the singular number; and, as it takes the lead in the subject, it consequently governs *is*, in the third person singular.

False Grammar.

All *things is* dust; *obedience to* God *become* men; *it behove* sinners to repent.

RULE V.

When an address is made to a person, the noun, or pronoun, is put in the nominative case independent.

As, O *house* of Israel; O *king*, live forever; *Rabbi, Rabbi*; yes, *Sir*, I will go! " *Colonel*, I am your most obedient—let me ask you one question, *Sir Harry*." †

"It must be *ſo*; *Plato*, thou reasonest well." †

"O *thou man* of God."

ILLUSTRATION.

House, king, Rabbi, Rabbi, Sir, Colonel, Sir Harry, Plato, thou man, are the persons to whom the addresses are made, and they are consequently put in the nominative case independent.

OBSERVATIONS.

* Hudibras.

† False Delicacy.

‡ Cato's tragedy.

OBSERVATIONS.

1. If the person, who makes the address, is affected with some sudden emotion, or passion, of the mind, he generally makes use of an interjection. As, O generation of vipers ! O the times ! O the manners ! O Sir Harry !

2. Sometimes the interjection is omitted. As, thou traitor ; thou villain ; ye simple ones ; master, we perish.

3. Interjections, when prefixed to the personal pronouns, of the first and second person, seem to have a government of case. As,

“ O thou, that reignest in the highest heavens.”

“ O thou, Dodonæan, great Pelagic Jove.”*

Ah me ! alas me ! “ Me miserable.”*

In instances of this kind, the interjections seem to govern the pronoun of the second person, in the nominative case, and the pronoun of the first person in the objective case.

4. “ Wo is me ! The phrase is pure Saxon : wa is me : me is the dative case : in English, with the preposition, to me. Wo worth the day ! Ezek. xxx. 2. that is, wo be to the day. The word worth is not the adjective, but the Saxon verb weorþan, or worthan, fieri, to be, to become ; which is often used by Chaucer, and is still retained as an auxiliary verb in the German language.”

LOWTH.

Falſe Grammar.

O thee ; ah I ; alas we ; heigh yours.

RULE VI.

The adjective, pronoun, and participle, agree with their nouns in number.

As, good men ; that pen ; thoſe quills ; this paper ; theſe books ; a virtuous man ; a chaſte woman : Plato was a great philoſopher : He is well taught in logic ; the book is printing.

ILLUSTRATION.

1. Men, quills, and books, are nouns in the plural number, and their adjectives, good, thoſe, and theſe, agree with them.

2. Pen,

* Pope.

2. *Pen, paper, man, woman, and philosopher*, are nouns in the singular, and their adjectives, *that, this, virtuous, chaste, and great*, agree with them.

3. *Taught and printing* are participles; *taught* agrees with the pronoun, *he*, and *printing* agrees with *book*.

OBSERVATIONS.

1. As English adjectives admit no variation, in gender, number and case, they may be indifferently added to any noun, in whatever case, number, or gender it may be. As, a *good man*; a *good man's reward*; a *good woman*; a *good woman's reward*.

2. As the pronominal adjectives, *this, these, that, those*, admit a variation in number, they will not indifferently agree with nouns in any number. If the nouns, with which they are connected, or represent, are in the singular number, they must also be in the singular number; and if the nouns are in the plural number, they must be in the same number.

3. "By *this* means they are happy in each other." ADDISON. "By *that* means, bury a capacity for great things." STEELE. The noun, *means*, being plural, it is inconsistent with grammatical analogy, to have it connected with a pronoun, in the singular number. *A means* is also ungrammatical. It is granted, that general practice, and almost all good writers, adopted the use of connecting the indefinite article *a* and a singular pronoun with the noun *means*. But this practice is a corruption.

4. Two, or more adjectives in a sentence, very often agree with the same noun, or pronoun. As, Lord Chatham was a *prudent, sagacious, and politic* minister.

5. Adjectives are often improperly used in the room of adverbs. "The bell sounds *clear*; the sun shines *bright*; he rides *single*; his talents are *extraordinary* bright; *extreme* unwilling; thy *exceeding* great reward; he is used *hard*." The words in *Italics* are adverbs, and the termination *ly* ought to have been annexed to them.

6. Every

6. Every adjective relates to some noun, either expressed, or understood. As, *great, good, wise*; that is, persons.

7. When nouns, to which adjectives relate, are not expressed, the adjectives are put absolute. As, who will show us any *good*? That is, any *good thing*.

8. Pronominal adjectives are put absolute, when they are used in the possessive case. As, "I will not destroy it for *ten's* sake;" this horse is *your's*; he came into this world of *our's*. Sometimes a noun is put absolute in the possessive case. As, "I am justified in publishing any letters of *Mr. Locke's*." In these instances, a noun of property, or possession, is understood. As, this horse is *your property*; this world of *our habitation*, or *dwelling*; any letters of *Mr. Locke's writing*, or *correspondence*, or *of the writing or correspondence, of Mr. Locke*.

9. *Every, each* and *either*, when used as pronouns, agree with verbs in the singular number only. As, *every* one of the apples *is* taken away; *each* of them *was* fined twenty shillings; *either* of the books *is* sufficient for my present purpose. *Every, each* and *either*, are distributive pronouns; and, consequently, a verb in the plural number should never be connected with them.

Falſe Grammar.

That men; *this* books; *thiſe* horſe; *theſe* woman; "every one of the letters *bear* date after his baniſhment;" "in proportion as *either* of theſe two qualities *are* wanting, language is imperfect;" *each* of the armies *were* on the march.

RULE VII.

Two, or more nouns ſingular, connected by a conjunctive conjunction, require, that their verb, pronoun, and noun, be in the plural number to agree with them.

As, *Demosthenes* and *Cicero* *were* excellent orators; *they* *were* friends to their reſpective countries.

This man, his wife, and ſon *are* happy; *they* *are* examples of fidelity and obedience.

ILLUSTRATION.

ILLUSTRATION.

1. *Demosthenes* and *Cicero* are nouns in the singular number; but being connected by the conjunction, *and*, they require that the verb, *were*, the nouns, *orators* and *friends*, and the pronouns, *they* and *their*, be in the plural number.

2. *Man*, *wife*, and *son*, are nouns in the singular number, and require, that the verb, *are*, and pronoun *they*, be in the plural number.

OBSERVATIONS.

1. When the conjunctive, *and*, is understood, the verb must still be put in the plural.

“That *reason*, *passion*, *answer* one great aim.” POPE.

2. When several nouns of different numbers are connected by the conjunction, *and*, the verb must be in the plural number. The reason is plain; a plural noun must ever have a plural verb. As, *two Englishmen* and a *Negro* were lately executed for highway robbery. The connexion of a singular, with a plural noun, will not destroy the propriety of having a plural verb.

3. Several nouns, in the singular number, connected by a disjunctive conjunction, may properly have a verb, in the singular number. As, neither *learning*, nor *usefulness*, nor *virtue*, exempts any man from death. In sentences of this kind, each noun has a separate agency, And, although there are several nominative cases or agents, yet the circumstances are not collectively predicated of all, but of one, or the other disjunctively.

4. And, frequently, after an enumeration of several individual things, that are connected by the conjunction, *and*, the verb, that follows, is put in the singular number. In sentences of this nature, the verb may have a separate agreement with either of the nouns. As, *poverty*, and *misery*, and even *death* itself, is more pleasing to a noble soul, than the blasts of reputation. “*Salt*, and *sand*, and a *mass* of iron, is easier to bear, than a man without understanding.” “Also their *love*, and their *hatred*, and their *envy*, is now perished.

5. When the singular pronouns, connected together, are of several persons, the verb must agree with the first, in preference to the second and third; and with the second, in preference to the third. As, *thou*, and *he*, and *I*, make *we*; *thou* and *I* make *we*; *thou* and *he* make *you*. As, *thou* and *he*, and *I* were in the same army. I know, that *thou* and *he*, live in the most happy union:

6. When a disjunctive conjunction intervene between two nominative pronouns, of the same person, the verb has a separate agreement with each of them. As, neither *he*, nor *she*, has recovered from sickness. But if the pronouns, thus connected, are of different persons, or numbers, the verb cannot have a separate agreement with both of them. As, either *ye* or *I* was present.

FALSE GRAMMAR.

Innocence and humility is beauties of the mind. *Poetry, painting, sculpture, and architecture*, affords not only an innocent, but a most sublime entertainment. A man may see a *metaphor*, or an *allegory*, in a picture, as well as read *them* in a fable. Several *thieves* and a *murderer* was condemned to die. When *thou, he* and *I* was young.

RULE VIII.

A collective noun, or a noun of multitude singular, may have a verb and pronoun agreeing with it, either in the singular, or plural, number.

As, the *army* was routed, as soon as *they* began the onset; the *parliament* are assembled, and *they* are determined to prosecute the war; my *people* are foolish; *they* have not known me; my *people* is foolish; the *people* rejoice; the *flock* is scattered.

ILLUSTRATION.

1. *Army* is a noun of multitude, and is the nominative to *was*. *They* is a plural pronoun, and refers to *army*.

2. *Parliament* and *people*, are nouns of multitude singular, and may have *are* and *they* in the plural number. And it is often the case, that they have verbs in the singular, and pronouns in the plural number.

F

OBSERVATIONS.

OBSERVATIONS.

1. Some nouns, that seem to have a plural termination, are, in fact, singular, and govern a verb in the singular number. As, the *wages of sin is* death; the *victuals was* elegantly served up; the *measles is* a foul distemper.

2. In some instances, a noun of multitude may not be connected with a plural verb. As, the American *Academy of arts and sciences is* very learned and respectable. Here a plural verb would be very improper; for the affirmation does not respect the individual members, in a separate capacity; but is intended of the whole, in a collective view.

3. To construct sentences, elegantly, under this rule, particular attention should be paid to the noun. If the noun convey singularity, or unity of idea, the verb will be most elegant in the singular number. But if plurality of idea be conveyed, then the verb will be most elegant in the plural.

4. When the indefinite article *a*, or *an*, is placed before a collective noun, the following verb should ever be in the singular number. *A company was* collected. *A*, *an*, is a corruption of the Saxon *æn*, signifying *one*. *A company*, that is, *one company*; *a flock*, that is, *one flock*; *an hour*, that is, *one hour*. Consequently, the indefinite article, *a*, or *an*, when prefixed to a collective noun, denotes singularity of idea, and governs a verb in the singular number only.

5. When *number*, or *quantity*, is spoken of in the abstract, without reference to the persons, or things, of which the number, or quantity, is composed, we should always make use of a singular verb. As, the *number of people, assembled on this occasion, was* very great. The *quantity of provisions, that have been produced, this season, is* very astonishing. In this use, we do not speak of the persons, but of the number; nor of the different kinds of provisions, but of the simple quantity. "The *number of the names together were* about *an hundred and twenty*." "The *number of them, that lapped—were* three hundred," are improper phrases.

False Grammar.

The *cattle* is in the pasture. *Cattle* is a noun in the singular number ; and, conveying plurality of idea, requires a plural verb. *A flock* of sheep *were* driven to market. "To restore to his *Island* that tranquillity and repose, to which *they* had been strangers." "What reason *have* the *Church* of Rome to talk of modesty in this case?" "There is no *constitution* so tame and careles of their own defence."

Island, *church*, and *constitution*, are not nouns of multitude ; and do not admit plural verbs and pronouns.

RULE IX.

The relative pronoun must agree with its antecedent, in gender, number, and person.

As, the man, *whom* I saw ; the woman, *whom* he loved ; the gentleman, *who* wrote that letter, is a scholar ; the pen, *which* he made ; the horse, *that* he stole, was my brother's.

ILLUSTRATION.

1. In the first sentence, *man* is the antecedent, third person singular, and masculine gender. *Whom* is the relative, and is consequently of the third person singular, and masculine gender.

2. *Woman*, in the next sentence, is the antecedent, third person singular, and feminine gender ; *whom* is the relative, and of the same person, number and gender.

Similar remarks apply to the remaining sentences.

OBSERVATIONS.

1. The personal pronouns are often used as antecedents and relatives. First, as antecedents : *he*, *that* fears not God, will be punished ; *she*, *who* plays on the spinnet, is Mr. King's daughter ; *I*, *who* am your senior, will not suffer such abuse ; *thou*, *who* art my junior ; *it* is true, *what* he said. Secondly, as relatives : *Brutus* loved *Cesar*, but *he* put *him* to death ; *Agrippina* was the wife of *Claudius*, but *she* poisoned *him* in order to make her son emperor ; the Angels are *God's* creatures, and *him* they adore ; he lent me *Rollin's history*, and I am much pleased with *it*. This pronoun often serves as a relative to an antecedent phrase ; as, *he was sick*, and I knew *it* not.

A pronoun

A pronoun possessive independent may be used as the antecedent to a relative. As, "my doctrine is not mine, but *his that* sent me." *His* is the antecedent, and *that*, the relative.

2. Pronouns, in the plural, are often relatives to two or more nouns in the singular number. As, the *Duke* and *Dutchess* put on *their* nuptial robes. The pronoun, *their*, is the relative to *Duke* and *Dutchess*.*

3. To find the antecedent, ask the question, who? which? what? And the word that answers the question, is the antecedent. As, blessed is the man, who feareth the Lord. Who is blessed? The *man*. *Man* is, therefore, the antecedent.

4. Every relative pronoun has an antecedent, either expressed, or understood, to which it refers. As, *who* loves his Maker is happy. That is, the *man who* loves his Maker.

5. The antecedents are sometimes placed after their relatives. As, "*Whoso* hath this world's goods, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?"—" *Whoso* privily slandereth his neighbour, *him* will I cut off." In these sentences, *him* is properly the antecedent, and *whoso* the relative.

6. When the relative follows two words of different persons, it may agree with either person, as its antecedent. Example: I am the *man, who* loves you, or I am the man *who* love you. When the person of the relative is determined, it ought to be continued through the sentence. As, I respect *you, who counsel* and *advise* me well: not who *counsel* and *advise* me well.

False Grammar.

The *boy* reads well, *it* is a good child. Your *daughter* writes a good hand, *he* is also modest. This is the *book, whom* you sent me. The *man, which* wrote the book. *Socrates* and *Cato* were heathens; yet *he* were wife and virtuous.

RULE X.

If there be no nominative between the relative and the verb, the relative is the nominative case to the verb.

* See under pronouns.

As, the boy, *who loves* his books, will make a scholar. The pens, *that were* given me, are very good. The college, *which was* founded by him, is in a flourishing condition.

ILLUSTRATION.

In these sentences, *who, that, and which*, are relative pronouns. *Loves, were, and was*, are the verbs. Between these relatives and the verbs there are no nominative cases. The relatives are, consequently, the nominatives to the verbs.

False Grammar.

'The men, *whom* fought well, are worthy of honour. The master, *whose* taught me, is dead.

RULE XI.

When a nominative case comes between the relative and the verb, then the relative is governed by the verb, or by some word, in the sentence, on which it immediately depends.

As, Jehovah, *who* made the world, by *whose* bounty we live, and by *whom* we are preserved, is eternal.

ILLUSTRATION.

Who is the nominative case to the verb, *made*, by Rule X. *Whose* is a possessive pronoun, immediately depending on *bounty*, and governed by it. *Whom* is in the objective case, and governed by the preposition, *by*.

The compounded pronouns, *whoever, whosesoever, whosoever, whomsoever*, follow this rule. By attending to this rule, the case and government of the relative may easily be known.

False Grammar.

The man, *who* I love, and *who* I saw yesterday, is dead. The man, *whose* I esteem, *whom* bounty relieved me, *who* I spoke to, is an ornament to human nature.

The practice of separating prepositions from relative pronouns in the objective, is not very elegant. As, "the man, *whom* he voted *for*, has great talents. The Lady, *whom* he gave his snuff-box to, is very handsome."

some." Propriety demands the following arrangement. The man; *for whom he voted*—the Lady, *to whom he gave his snuff-box.*

RULE XII.

Two, or more nouns, signifying the same thing, are put, by apposition, in the same case.

As, *Paul, the Apostle. Solomon, the son of David, king of Israel. Marcus Tullius Cicero was an excellent orator. I much esteem his Excellency George Washington, President of the United States.*

ILLUSTRATION.

Paul, Apostle, are two nouns, meaning the same person. *Solomon, son, king,* are three nouns, and, meaning the same person, they are placed in apposition. *Marcus Tullius Cicero,* being in apposition, admits the verb, *was,* in the singular number. In the last sentence, the nouns, in *Italics,* are applied to an individual person, and they are in the objective case, by apposition.

OBSERVATIONS.

1. To express emphasis more fully, a pronoun is often put in apposition to a preceding noun. As, *Augustus, the Roman emperor, he who succeeded Julius Cæsar,* is differently described by historians. "After this, *Jesus* went down to Capernaum, *he,* and his mother." — &c.

2. When two or more nominative nouns, are placed together in apposition, the verb must agree with the first, or most important word. As, *the founders of Rome, a gang of thieves and villains, were* a collection from many tribes. *The Apostles, a set of illiterate men, destroyed,* by their preaching, heathen idolatry and superstition.

3. Nouns of the singular number, that are in apposition, must ever have a singular verb and relative to agree with them; for they mean one individual person, or thing.

False Grammar.

Paul, the Apostle, were an eminent scholars, and pious Christians. *Marcus Tullius Cicero were* an excellent orator;

orator; *they were* the rival of Hortensius. George the third, king of England, are also the elector of Hanover.

RULE XIII.

Two nouns in conjunction, signifying different things, and implying property, will have the first in the possessive case.

As, *Cato's* tragedy; *Shakespeare's* Hamlet; *Washington's* army; *Pope's* Homer; *Sberlock's* writings.

ILLUSTRATION.

Cato, Shakespeare, Washington, Pope, and Sberlock, are nouns, that, in conjunction with *tragedy, Hamlet, army, Homer, and writings,* imply property; they are, consequently, put in the possessive case.

OBSERVATIONS:

1. Sometimes we use a periphrasis, with the help of the preposition, *of*. As, the glory *of* man; for *man's* glory. This form of expression, denoting property, answers to the genitive case, in Latin and Greek.

2. Every possessive case implies a noun to which the thing, not expressed, belongs. As, *St. Stephen's*; that is, *St. Stephen's chapel*. *St. Peter's*; that is, *St. Peter's church*. "One of the ships, which was *Simon's*;" that is, *Simon's ship*.

3. Two nouns together, and one in apposition, may both have the sign of the possessive case. As, I bought my book at *Mr. Dobson's, the printer's,* office.

4. Proper nouns are often connected with common nouns. As, a *Turkey merchant*; an *India ship*. In instances of this kind, the proper noun is used in the nature of an adjective. It is called, by some, a *respective adjective*; because it expresses the *respects* or properties, that are not expressed by the possessive case. As, a *Turkey merchant* means a merchant that carries on traffic in *Turkey*.

False Grammar:

Content is the poor *man* riches, and desire the rich *man* poverty. Money is the *miser's* god, which he fates at an humble distance, but dares not approach.

Woman's

Woman chastity is woman glory. Achilles's shield.
Righteousness's sake.

RULE XIV.

Active verbs govern nouns and pronouns in the objective case.

As, he loves *them*; it displeases *him*; good scholars love their *books*; honour thy *parents*.

ILLUSTRATION.

1. *Them* and *him* are pronouns in the objective case, and they are governed by the active verbs, *loves* and *displeases*.

2. *Books* and *parents* are nouns, in the objective case, and governed by *love* and *honour*, which are active verbs.

OBSERVATIONS.

1. Objective words are the recipients of actions expressed by the verbs. If the action of the verb terminate on the noun, the noun is, of course, in the objective.

2. It often happens, that an active verb governs two objective words; one expressing the person, and the other, the thing. As, he taught *them* *philosophy*.

And sometimes, the active verb governs two nouns, in the objective, both of which are expressive of things only. As, the *literati*, who make *etymology* the invariable rule of pronunciation.*

3. The objective case of the personal pronouns, and always the relatives, *who*, *which*, *what*, and *that*, when used in the objective, are placed before the verbs that govern them. As, *whom* ye ignorantly worship, *him* declare I unto you. *Which* he said. *That* he mentioned. *What* he wanted.

RULE XV.

The infinitive mode may be governed by a verb, a noun, or an adjective.

As, the scholar, that desires *to learn*, loves *to study*. "I am not worthy *to unloose* his shoe's latchet." His ambition *to excel* is very commendable.

ILLUSTRATION.

* Preface to Perry's Dict. p. 2.

ILLUSTRATION.

1. Sentence. The verbs *desires* and *loves* govern *to learn* and *to study* in the infinitive mode.
2. Sentence. *To unloose* is a verb, in the infinitive mode, and governed by the adjective, *worthy*.
3. Sentence. *Ambition*, a noun, governs the verb, *to excel*, in the infinitive mode.

OBSERVATIONS.

1. The word *to*, prefixed to verbs in the infinitive mode, is a derivation from the Gothic noun, *tau*, signifying, *act*, *effect*, *result*, or *consummation*. It "is no other than the past participle, *tauid*, of the verb, *taujan*, *agere*."* Granting this derivation to be just, the propriety of prefixing the word *to* to our verbs, in the infinitive mode, is evident. "There is no difference, says Mr. Tooke, between the noun, *love*, and the verb, *to love*, but what must be comprised in the prefix, *to*. When the old termination of the Anglo Saxon verbs was dropped, this word *to* (*i. e. act*) became necessary to be prefixed, in order to distinguish them from nouns, and to invest them with the verbal character."*

2. *To*, the sign of the infinitive, appears sometimes to be used in the nature of expressing more emphatically the intention, or design, of the agent to the governing verb. As, "And the Lord came down *to* see the city, and the tower, which the children of men builded." The Apostles travelled from city to city, *to* publish the glad tidings of salvation.

3. The preposition, *about*, often has influence upon verbs of the infinitive mode. In this connexion, it denotes the speedy execution of an action, or expresses some circumstance of an action. As, "Behold, I am *about to* die; the ship is *about to* fail; that is, every thing is in preparation to fail immediately.

4. One verb may often govern a noun, in the objective case, and a following verb in the infinitive mode. As, a good preceptor *stimulates* his pupils *to prosecute* their studies with vigour. I know him *to be well qualified* for his station.

5. The

* Mr. Horne Tooke, as quoted by Charles Coote.

5. The verbs that follow, *bid, dare, feel, bear, let, make, must, need, speak, see, and have*, are used in the infinitive mode, without having the sign *to* prefixed to them.

RULE XVI.

A noun, or pronoun, standing alone as an answer to a question, is either in the nominative to the verb that answers the question, or in the objective, and governed by it, though the verb be not expressed.

As, who did this? *John*. Whom do you fancy most? *This Lady*. Who was that man? *His Excellency*.

ILLUSTRATION.

1. In the first sentence, *John* answers the question, and is the nominative to the verb, *did*, understood.

2. In the second sentence, *this Lady* answers the question, is in the objective case, and governed by the verb, *fancy*, understood.

3. In the last sentence, *His Excellency* answers the question, and is governed, in the nominative case, by the verb, *was*, understood.

OBSERVATIONS.

1. The word, that answers the question, may often be in the objective case, and governed by a preposition understood. As, for whom do you work? *Mr. Smith*. That is, I work *for Mr. Smith*. To whom is she married? *Mr. Strong*. That is, she is married *to Mr. Strong*.

2. The nature of this rule will appear more plainly, by expressing, at large, the questions and answers.

QUESTIONS.

Who did this?
Whom do you fancy most?
Who was that man?
To whom is she married?

ANSWERS.

John did it.
I fancy this Lady most.
It was his Excellency.
She is married to Mr. Strong.

False Grammar.

Who made that pen? *Him*. Who spilt the ink? *Her*. Who abhors lying? *Us*. To whom is she married? *To he*. To whom was the reward given? *To they*.

RULE

RULE XVII.

The infinitive mode, or a member of the sentence, may do the office of a nominative case to a verb.

As, *To fear God, is the glory of man. To see the rising generation, walking in the paths of virtue, is very beautiful. The rulers and people debauching themselves, will bring destruction upon a country.*

ILLUSTRATION.

1. *To fear* and *to see* are verbs in the infinitive mode, and they do the office of nominative cases to the following verbs.

2. *The rulers and people debauching themselves*, is a member of a sentence, and answers as the nominative case to the verb, *will bring*.

OBSERVATIONS.

1. In forms of expression, that come under this rule, the verb, to which the infinitive, or member, is the nominative, must ever be in the third person singular. The reason is plain; this infinitive and member convey singularity of idea.

2. "The infinitive mode (says Dr. Blair) may be called the name of the verb; it carries neither time, nor affirmation; but simply expresses that action, attribute, or state of things, which is to be the subject of the other modes and tenses. Hence the infinitive is often akin to a substantive noun; and, both in English and Latin, is sometimes constructed as such. As, "dulce—est pro patria mori." And, in English, in the same manner. 'To write well, is difficult; to speak eloquently, is still more difficult.'"

3. The infinitive mode is often used as the antecedent to a relative. As, we are required to *fear God and keep his commandments, which is the whole duty of man. What is the whole duty of man? Answer, to fear God and keep his commandments.*

False Grammar.

To die for one's country art pleasant. To see the sun are charming. Live and die without doing any good, is shameful indeed.

RULE

* Lect. p. 70.

RULE XVIII.

A verb, in the infinitive mode absolute, stands independently of the remaining part of the sentence.

As, *to confess* the truth, I was in fault. *To own* the fact, I did it. *To proceed* in my story, he went to Boston. *To conclude* my narration, he was fined fifty pounds. "Yet, *to express* this variety, we use only four points." LOWTH.

ILLUSTRATION.

To confess, to own, to proceed, to conclude, to express, are verbs, in the infinitive mode, and they are used in an absolute sense; that is, they are not governed by any preceding verb, noun, or adjective; neither are they used as doing the office of nominative cases to any subsequent verbs.

OBSERVATIONS.

1. A verb absolute, in the infinitive mode, may govern an objective word, either expressed, or understood. As, *to confess* the truth; *to see*, that is, *objects*.

2. Phrases, in which the infinitive mode absolute is used, frequently occur in conversation and writing. Their construction may be elegantly changed, by using the conjunction, *that*, and a helping verb in the potential mode. As, *to confess* the truth, I was in fault. Changed; *that I may confess* the truth, I was in fault. The construction may also be changed, by using the pronoun *it*. As, "*to err*, is human; *to forgive*, divine." Changed; *it is human to err*; *it is divine to forgive*.

3. The conjunction, *for*, is inelegantly used before verbs, in the infinitive mode. As, he came *for to study* Latin. They went *for to hear* him preach. "All their works they do *for to be seen* of men."

4. "The infinitive mode of active verbs is often used in a neuter signification; as, *they are to blame for so doing*. *I left my books to bind*. Such infinitives may be expressed perhaps with equal propriety by the infinitive of the passive verbs; as, *they are to be blamed for so doing*. *I left my books to be bound*." USHER.

RULE XIX.

Prepositions govern nouns and pronouns in the objective case. As,

As, he pleads well *at the bar* ; he speaks gracefully *in the pulpit* ; I write *for him* ; he went to *Boston* ; go *before them* ; he came *after us* ; he turned *from her*, with *disdain*.

ILLUSTRATION.

At, in, for, to, before, after, from, and with, are prepositions ; and they govern *bar, pulpit, him, Boston, them, us, her, and disdain*, in the objective case.

OBSERVATIONS.

1. Prepositions are often omitted, especially before pronouns. As, give it *me*. Buy *him* some books. Here *to* and *for* are elegantly omitted, before the pronouns, *me* and *him*.

2. Nouns, that signify the time, *when*, or *how long*, are frequently used without prepositions. As, he lived, *four years*, at College ; that is, *during four years*. He went home, *last week* ; that is, *on last week*. " *All the days* of my appointed time, will I wait ;" that is, *through all the days*, or *during all the days*.

3. In some instances, neuter verbs have the appearance of governing the following nouns, in the objective. But, even in these instances, the nouns are governed by prepositions understood. As, he rode *sixty miles* in one day. He lay *six weeks*, in great agony of mind and body. He slept *all night*. In these, and similar phrases, the preposition, *through* or *during*, is understood, and governs the following nouns in the objective.

4. "The particle *a* before participles, in the phrases *a coming, a going, a walking, a shooting, &c.* and before nouns, as, *a bed, a board, a shore, a foot, &c.* seems, says Bishop Lowth, to be a true and genuine preposition, a little disguised by familiar use and quick pronunciation. Dr. Wallis supposes it to be the preposition, *at*. I rather think it to be the preposition, *on* : *at* has relation chiefly to place : *on* has a more general relation, and may be applied to *action* as well as *place*. I was *on coming, on going, &c.* that is, employed upon that particular *action* : So likewise those phrases above mentioned, *a bed, &c.* exactly answer to *on bed, on board, on shore, on foot*. Much in the same manner,

G

Thomas

Thomas of Becket, by very frequent and familiar use, became Thomas a Becket; and one of the clock, or perhaps on the clock, is pronounced one a clock."

5. The preposition, *to*, is ever used before nouns of place, after verbs and participles that signify motion. As, he went *to New York*. He is going *to Boston*. The preposition, *at*, is ever used, when it follows the neuter verb, and signifies the place *where*. As, he is *at home*. They touched *at Cuba*.

6. English verbs are often compounded of a preposition and a verb. As, *to understand, to outgo, to withdraw*. When the preposition is placed before the verb, it gives the verb a meaning very different from what it has, when placed after the verb. As, *to understand* signifies *to know*; *to stand under* signifies to be under something:

7. Elegance requires, that we do not use prepositions in conjunction with those verbs, that preserve their signification without the prepositions. As, *accept it*; *admit him*; *approve*; *address*; *attain*; are more elegant than *accept of it*; *admit of him*; *approve of*; *addresses to*; *attain to*.

8. In general, the same preposition should follow a noun, that elegance requires should follow the verb, from which the noun is derived.

Verbs.

To comply *with*.
 To engage *in*.
 To prevail *over*.
 To condescend *to*.
 To depart *from*.
 To bestow *upon*.
 To accuse *of*.
 To detract *from*.
 To derogate *from*.
 To differ *from*. *In*
resemblance.
 To differ *with*. *In a*
quarrel.
 Averse *from*.

Nouns.

In compliance *with*.
 Engagement *in*.
 Prevalence *over*.
 Condescension *to*.
 Departure *from*.
 Bestowment *upon*.
 Accusation *of*.
 Detraction *from*.
 Derogation *from*.
 Difference *from*. *In*
resemblance.
 Difference *with*. *In a*
quarrel.
 Aversion *from*.

False

False Grammar.

Accordingly to law. Agreeably with law. If policy can prevail upon force. Whom you accuse for luxuriance of verse. That variety of factions into which we are still engaged. Give it to *she*.

RULE XX.

Conjunctions connect like modes, times and cases, except when the sense does otherwise require. As, *virtue and vice* are opposite in their nature; and so are *light and darkness*. *He, and you, and they,* are much engaged. Blessed is the man, who *feareth* the Lord and *keepeth* his commandments.

ILLUSTRATION.

1. *Virtue* and *vice* are nouns in the nominative case, and connected by the conjunction, *and*.
2. *He, you* and *they,* are pronouns in the nominative case, and they are connected by *and*.
3. *Feareth* and *keepeth* are active verbs, indicative mode, present time, third person singular, and connected by the conjunction.

OBSERVATIONS.

1. Although this is a general rule, yet the best writers often deviate from it in their practice. It is often the case, that conjunctions connect dissimilar *cases, modes* and *times*.

2. Grammarians, in general, say, that the relative, *who*, when used after the conjunction, *than*, must always be in the objective case. As, *Moses, than whom a meeker man never lived, was not perfect*. I have just been reading Mr. Addison, *than whom no writer is more pure in his style*.

"Beelzebub, *than whom*,
Satan except, none higher sat."

MILTON.

Dr. Lowth approves the use of *whom* in this example, in saying, that "the relative, *who*, having reference to no verb or preposition understood, but only to its antecedent, is, when it follows *than*, always in the objective case; even though the pronoun, if substituted in its place, would be in the nominative."* This remark of the learned Bishop has been adopted by nearly all

* Grammar, p. 108.

all the Grammarians that have written since he published his most excellent *Treatise*. Perhaps the remark is erroneous. "For, as in the circumstances mentioned by the Bishop, there is no word that can occasion the relative to be in the objective case, neither *than* nor the antecedent having that power, and no verb or preposition governing it, either expressed or understood, it seems improper to put it in that case; particularly when we consider that *who* has the same regimen that belongs to a personal pronoun, which part of speech would, in this case, be in the nominative case—*none higher sat than he* (sat;) and that *who* after *than*, may as properly refer to, and govern the verb, *sat* understood, as *he*, or any other personal pronoun."*

If the preceding observations be just, then it is very improper to use the relative, *whom*, after the conjunction, *than*. At least there is no necessity of using this form of speech. "I have just been reading Mr. Addison, *than whom* no writer is more pure in his style," may be elegantly altered thus: "I have just been reading Mr. Addison, *and* no writer is more pure in his style *than he*." The latter arrangement preserves the purity and correctness of language; while the former offends against both.

3. When the qualities of things are compared, the last noun is not governed by the conjunction, *than*, or *as*; but the noun either agrees with the verb, or is governed by the verb, or a preposition expressed, or understood. As, she is taller *than I* (am.) He is older *than you* (are.) This is whiter *than that* (is.) You are as young *as he* (is.) You hate me more *than* (you hate) *him*.

False Grammar.

People forgive as long as *them* love. You, and *her*, and *him*, are to be blamed. She is more fond of gaiety than *him*.

RULE XXI.

Conjunctions, implying doubt, or conditionality, govern the following verbs in the conjunctive mode:

As, if he *come*. If thou *love* him. Though I *were* there. Though he *fall*, he shall not be utterly cast down.

ILLUSTRATION.

* Charles Coote, p. 246.

ILLUSTRATION.

The conjunctions, *if*, and *though*, imply conditionality of event; and, consequently, govern the verbs *come*, *love*, *were*, and *fall*, in the conjunctive mode.

OBSERVATIONS.

1. The indicative mode is properly used after conjunctions, when they do not imply contingency, or uncertainty of event. When certainty of event, or action, is implied, or expressed, the verb ought ever to be in the indicative mode. Upon this principle, the following sentences are improper. "*Though he were a son, yet learned he obedience by the things that he suffered.*" "*Though the Lord be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly.*" The subjunctive mode, in these sentences, is improperly used: For the *sonship* of Christ admits no doubtfulness, or conditionality. In the other instance, the writer did not mean to affirm, that the Lord's supremacy, or exalted station, was a matter of uncertainty, but as a certain fact.

2. Pronouns, implying uncertainty, govern the conjunctive mode. *As, whoever he be; whichsoever he choose.*

3. *That*, when it expresses condition, governs this mode. *As, on condition that he perform his promise.* This word when it refers to a preceding command, must have the following verb in the conjunctive. *As, "Take heed, that thou speak not to Jacob."*

SYNTAX OF PARTICIPLES.

"Few languages allow so extensive an use of participles as the English. Our participles, besides their natural signification and power as verbs, sometimes put on the form of substantives, and sometimes of adjectives; they frequently serve as nominative and objective cases." USHER.

It may, therefore, be proper to notice their particular uses, and rules of government.

RULE I.

Participles govern the same case, as the verbs from which they are derived, govern.

G 2.

As,

As, they found him *transgressing* the laws. "And he went into the synagogue—*disputing* and *persuading* the things concerning the kingdom of God."

"She, *having tossed* on the whole ocean the Trojans."

VIRGIL.

ILLUSTRATION.

The words, *transgressing*, *disputing*, and *persuading*, are participles of the present time, and they govern the nouns, *laws* and *things*, in the objective case.

Having tossed is a participle of the past per. and governs the noun, *Trojans*, in the objective.

OBSERVATIONS.

1. That present participles may govern nouns in the objective case is evident: For they govern pronouns in the objective. As, "teaching *them*." "Teaching *us*, that denying ungodliness."

2. Present participles of neuter verbs may occasionally govern either a nominative or objective case. It is *becoming them*. *Becoming* is here a participle of the present time, from the neuter verb, *become*, and it governs the pronoun, *them*, in the objective. Holiness *becoming thy house*, is the delight of saints. Who, *moving majestically*, the *queen* of heaven. Who, *being the brightness* of his glory. See page 54, Rule III.

RULE II.

When a preposition is prefixed to a participle, the participle governs the following noun in the objective.

As, blessed is the man, that keepeth his hand *from doing any evil*. In *doing this*, thou shalt save thyself. By *loving virtue*, misery may be shunned. A young scholar, *by pursuing his studies*, *by avoiding bad company*, and *cultivating morality*, may rise to eminence.

ILLUSTRATION.

Doing, *loving*, *pursuing*, *avoiding* and *cultivating*, are participles preceded by the prepositions, *from*, *in*, and *by*; and they govern the words, *evil*, *this*, *virtue*, *studies*, *company*, and *morality*, in the objective case.

OBSERVATIONS.

1. It frequently happens, that participles, preceded by prepositions, have no government of case after them.

At,

As, *in learning to dance.* They talked of returning to Boston, last week. He has no objection against going with us.

2. This form of expression answers to that form, which in Latin, is called the gerund, and may properly be called the gerundial participle. In this use, it often has the regimen of a verb.

3. "Care must be taken by the learner to distinguish this manner of employing the participle from the ordinary way in which it is used; for a sentence may sometimes happen to be so worded, that one of these acceptations may suit the words, though not the context, as well as the other; as in these instances, viz. "he was cured by *attenuating medicines*; he acquired knowledge from *observing men*." In the former passage, *attenuating*, as a participle, will agree with the noun, *medicines*, and the phrase, *attenuating medicines*, will signify such medicines as *attenuate*, or make thin, the humours of the body; but considered in its capacity as a gerund, *attenuating* will govern *medicines*, and the words *attenuating medicines* will imply the act of making medicines thin; the reader, however, with a little consideration, will perceive that though the latter sense may grammatically be deduced from the words in question, it will not suit the context, which would require the words to be taken in the other signification. In the latter example, if we take *observing* in its participial import, it will agree with *men*, and will intimate, that the men, from whom "he acquired knowledge," were persons who *observed*, or took great notice of things in general; whereas, in its gerundial acceptation, it will give a different turn to the sentence, which will then imply, that "he acquired knowledge from the practice of observing, or making remarks on men."

COOTE,

4. A participle, in its gerundial capacity, is often placed immediately after an active verb. As, I cannot omit *noticing* this truth. He cannot forbear *remarking* severe things. They could not avoid *seeing* me, as I passed along the road.

RULE

RULE III.

When the present participle has the definite article, *the*, before it, the preposition, *of*, ought always to follow : in this case the participle is converted into the nature of a noun.

As, *the loving of our enemies is the will of God. By the making of good laws, and the executing of them, the happiness of man is secured. "Which beset me, by the lying in wait of the Jews."*

ILLUSTRATION.

Loving, making, executing, and lying, are originally participles of the present time ; and they are converted into nouns, by the article, *the*, and the preposition, *of*.

OBSERVATIONS.

1. That participles, in this form, put on the very nature and meaning of nouns, is evident from the following example : *The executing of good laws will strengthen government ; changed, the execution of good laws will strengthen government.*

2. If either *the* or *of* be omitted, we should be careful to omit both ; and then the participle will remain in its primitive signification. As, *by lying in wait, the Jews attempted to kill Paul. By executing good laws, happiness is secured to man.*

3. Our best writers frequently make great mistakes in their manner of using the participles of the present time. We often find, in their writings, sentences of the following construction ; *by loving of our enemies. By the preaching repentance. By shunning of evil. By the sending to them. In mumbling of the game.* These expressions offend against the rules of grammar. The using of participles partly as nouns, and partly as gerunds, wholly confounds two distinct modes of expression. The insertion of the article, *the*, and preposition, *of*, or the total omission of both of them, would have prevented the confusion, that is observable in the above quotations.

4. "This rule, says Bishop Lowth, arises from the nature and idiom of our language ; and, from as plain a principle as any on which it is founded ; namely, that

that a word, which has the article, *the*, before it, and the possessive preposition, *of*, after it, must be a noun; and if a noun, it ought to follow the construction of a noun, and not the regimen of a verb."

RULE IV.

Participial, or verbal, nouns, govern the nouns that follow them in the objective case.

As, I heard of *his writing a book*. In *Christ's assuming human nature*, there was a great display of condescension. When the Parliament heard of *Washington's taking Cornwallis*. We frequently hear of the *Indians' enduring hardships*. There is much fortitude shown in *a man's conquering his passions*. Thy felicity depends on *thy having contracted an alliance* with this family.

ILLUSTRATION.

Writing, assuming, taking, enduring, conquering, and having contracted, are used as verbal nouns; and they govern *book, nature, Cornwallis, hardships, passions, and alliance*, in the objective case.

OBSERVATIONS.

1. Verbal nouns should either have a pronoun possessive united to them, or the noun that precedes them should be in the possessive case.

2. They are called verbal nouns, because they have the government of the verbs from which they are derived; and also because they admit prepositions to precede them, that govern them as nouns in the objective.

3. Verbal nouns are often used without an objective case following them. As, they heard of *his dying*. I knew of *his working*. This is the *Lord's doing*. "To express *men's being* so circumstanced; as, *one's being* in health. When we speak of *ambition's being* restless." BLAIR. But the objective case, in most instances, is either expressed, or understood.

4. This verbal noun may stand as the nominative case to a following verb. As, *men's continuing* in sin is the cause of their destruction. *His dying*, reduced the family to poverty. *His being apprehended*, was the cause of the other villain's *secreting himself*. *His having been*
laught

taught the arts and sciences, in early life, *was* very beneficial to him in all his future stations.

5. This verbal noun is frequently used as a substantive in the objective case; and, in this use, it is governed by the preceding verb. *As*, his parents *bemoaned* his *being taken* a prisoner. He *repented* his *having neglected* his studies at College. They *regret* their *having been* *disappointed* by this man.

6. Verbal nouns may follow nouns and pronouns in the possessive case. But when the participle is not connected with a noun in the possessive, or with a pronoun possessive, it may not be considered as a verbal noun. *As*, who ever heard of a miser *despising* riches? The Americans *conquering* the Britons, have established their martial bravery and skill. A woman *hating* flattery, is a prodigy in nature. A man *contemning* honour, is incapable of noble actions. In these instances, *despising*, *conquering*, *hating*, and *contemning*, are participles, that agree with their nouns, *miser*, *Americans*, *woman*, and *man*, according to Rule VI.; and they govern *riches*, *Britons*, *flattery* and *honour*, in the objective, according to Rule I. under participles.

RULE V.

A participle, joined to an adverb, is independent. *As*, Dr. Robertson's history of South America, is, *generally speaking*, exceedingly well written. "Two objects may sometimes be very happily compared together, though they resemble each other, *strictly speaking*, in nothing."

BLAIR.

ILLUSTRATION.

In these sentences, the participles *speaking*, in connexion with the adverbs, *generally* and *strictly*, are wholly independent of the sentences, in which they are used. A participle, in this position, has neither government of case, nor agreement with any noun. And it may, therefore, be called *the independent participle*.

RULE VI.

A noun, joined with a participle, and standing independent of the rest of the sentence, is in the nominative case independent.

As,

As, the General being slain, the army was routed. Affairs being thus circumstanced, it is advisable not to proceed in this business. The parliament having justified the king's conduct, the mob dispersed. The assembly being composed, he resumed his oration. "Now, in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Cæsar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee—Annas and Caiaphas being the high priests, the word of God came unto John."

ILLUSTRATION.

General, affairs, Parliament, assembly, Pontius Pilate, Herod, Annas and Caiaphas, are nouns in the nominative case independent.

OBSERVATIONS.

1. Nouns, in the nominative case independent, have no connexion, either by government or agreement, with any other part of speech in the sentences, in which they are used.

2. But participles, connected with independent nouns, have an agreement with the nouns. And it is frequently the case, that participles in this connexion, may govern an objective case after them. As, the sun dispersing the clouds, it began to grow warm.

3. This nominative case independent answers to the case, which, in Latin, is called the ablative, and in Greek, the genitive absolute. As, imperante Augusto, natus est Christus: Imperante Tiberio, crucifixus. Translated; Augustus being emperor, Christ was born: Tiberius being emperor, he was crucified.

4. This mode of expression may be altered, by using the neuter verb, to be, and conjunctions of the following kind, as, since, &c. As affairs are thus circumstanced, it is advisable not to proceed in this business.

False Grammar.

Her dying, the people lamented. Us returning, the enemy fled. Him descending from his throne, the people shouted.

Them flying, the enemy resumed their courage. Thee speaking, the audience attended.

RULE

RULE VII.

Participles often govern the verbs following them in the infinitive mode.

1. The present participle governs the following verb in the infinitive mode. As, in *learning to write*, the hand must move gently over the paper. Much time was spent in *teaching* him to read and cypher. In *attempting* to escape, they alarmed the guard. "In the latter times some shall depart from the faith—*forbidding* to marry and *commanding* to abstain from meats." The words in *Italics*, are participles of the present time, and they govern the verbs, *to write*, *to read*, *to escape*, *to marry*, and *to abstain*, in the infinitive mode.

2. Participles of the past time have also a government of verbs in the infinitive mode. As, he *being instructed to behave* gracefully—they *having been taught* to reverence their parents——. The soldiers *having been disciplined* to obey their officers——.

"And *born* to write, converse, and live with ease." POPE.

The words *italicized* are participles of the past time; and they govern the following verbs, *to behave*, *to reverence*, *to obey*, and *to write*, in the infinitive mode.

3. Participles of the present and past time are sometimes used in the room of verbs, in the infinitive mode. As, the art of *singing*. A desire of *seeing* him. Desirous of *seeing* him. Capable of *doing* this. He had a desire of *being taught*. These phrases may be thus changed: The art *to sing*. A desire *to see* him. Capable *to do* this. He had a desire *to be taught*.

A P P E N D I X.

REMARKS ON THE ELLIPSIS.

ELLIPSIS, when applied to grammar, is the elegant omission of some one part, or parts, of speech in a sentence.

The part of speech, that is omitted, must be added in idea, either to complete the sense, or to parse the sentence grammatically.

To shun the unpleasing repetition of words, and to have the mode of expression as elegant as possible, is the main design of the ellipsis.

That this figure may be used with elegance, the speaker, or writer, should be careful to shun all ambiguity of expression. Whenever the meaning is darkened, the figure is improperly used.

Simple sentences are seldom elliptical : but compound sentences are very often affected with this figure.

To produce some examples of elliptical sentences, is the best method to impress the understanding with the propriety, or impropriety, of using the ellipsis.

ELLIPSIS OF THE ARTICLE.

The men, women, and children ; together with *the* cattle, houses, barns, and fields, were all destroyed.

The repetition of the article *the*, before each noun, in this sentence, is needless.

When any peculiar emphasis is to be placed upon the nouns, then the repetition of the article *the* is both necessary and elegant.

“ But of that day, and that hour, knoweth no man ; no, not *the* angels, which are in heaven, neither *the* Son, but *the* Father.”

ELLIPSIS OF THE NOUN.

A most kind, tender, and faithful *husband*. A most beautiful, amiable, prudent, and virtuous *wife*.

H

Sentences,

Sentences, that are very emphatical, will not admit the ellipsis.

“Christ, the power of God, and the wisdom of God.”
Christ, the power and wisdom of God, is not so emphatical.

He went to St. Stephen's. He is dean of St. Paul's. Whose book is this? It is Peter's. This is good composition; and more elegant, than if the nouns, omitted by the ellipsis, were supplied. And, yet, in parsing, we must say, St. Stephen's Chapel; St. Paul's Church; it is Peter's book.

ELLIPSIS OF THE ADJECTIVE.

Washington is a *great* scholar, statesman, and general.

In sentences of this kind, care should be taken, that the adjectives, omitted, be as proper to qualify the latter, as former noun.

The ellipsis of adjectives should never be applied to nouns of different numbers.

ELLIPSIS OF THE PRONOUN.

“*My* house and tenements to Ned.”* *My* book, pen, ink, and paper. *My* father and mother, sisters and brothers.

* If the expressions demand a particular emphasis, we must dispense with the figure.

“O, send out *thy* light and *thy* truth. The Lord is *my* light and *my* salvation.”

ELLIPSIS OF THE VERB.

“And knowest not *that, thou art* wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.”

To omit verbs, in similar instances, is very proper. In the preceding sentences, the conjunction *that*, the pronoun *thou*, and the verb *art*, are omitted in four different places; and, yet, there is no obscurity of sense.

When several verbs, in succession, are used in the infinitive mode, elegance requires that, *to*, the sign of the infinitive mode, should be omitted before all, but the first.

To love and fear God is man's duty.

ELLIPSIS OF THE ADVERB.

He walks, speaks, and behaves, very *genteelly*. He teaches his scholars *to* spell, read, and write, *correctly*.

ELLIPSIS

* Mr. Pope.

ELLIPSIS OF THE CONJUNCTION.

God is to be loved for his truth, goodness, mercy, *and* grace.

In all emphatical expressions, the conjunction ought to be used.

“For I am persuaded that, *neither* death, *nor* life, *nor* angels, *nor* principalities, *nor* powers, *nor* things present, *nor* things to come, *nor* height, *nor* depth, *nor* any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God.”

Corresponding conjunctions should never be omitted. A few examples will evince the impropriety of omitting correspondent conjunctions.

So—as. Providence is not *so* large *as* Boston. Providence is not *more* large *so* Boston.

As—as. He is *as* learned a man *as* you. He is *so* learned a man *as* you.

Whether—or. *Whether* it were you, *or* they, that played. *Whether* it were you, *nor* they, that played.

Neither—nor. *Neither* this man, *nor* his father. *Neither* this man, *or* his father.

Either—or. Choose *either* this, *or* that. Choose *either* this, *and* that.

Though—yet. *Though* he is not polite, *yet* he is learned and virtuous. *Though* he is not polite, he is learned and virtuous.

So—that. It is *so* plain, *that* you must know it. It is *so* plain, you must know it.

ELLIPSIS OF THE PREPOSITION.

To finish his education, he made a tour *through* England, France, Italy, Germany, and Holland.

The repetition of the preposition *through*, before all these nouns, would be inelegant. And where neither sense nor perspicuity demands the use of a preposition, it should be avoided.

ELLIPSIS OF THE INTERJECTION.

Thomas answered and said, *my Lord* and *my God.* *Rabbi.* *Good master.* *Yes, Sir.* *No, Madam.*

The following quotations are very elliptical. “Let us swallow them up alive as the grave, and whole, as those that go down into the pit.” (Prov. i. 12.) Supplied: Let *thou* swallow
low

low them up alive, as the grave swalloweth them up alive, and let thou us swallow them up whole, as those are swallowed up whole, that go down into the pit.

That this verse cannot be parsed without supplying, in idea, the words that are omitted, by the ellipsis, is evident to all acquainted with the rules of Syntax.

“ That we may enjoy ourselves, let us be temperate, chaste, moderate ; that we may enjoy one another, let us be benevolent, humane, charitable ; that we may enjoy God, let us be pious, devout, and holy ; detesting the vices, and despising the vanities of this world.”*

That we may enjoy ourselves, let us be temperate, *that we may enjoy ourselves let us be chaste, and that we may enjoy ourselves let us be moderate* ; that we may enjoy one another, let us be benevolent, *that we may enjoy one another, let us be humane, and that we may enjoy one another, let us be charitable* ; that we may enjoy God, let us be pious, *that we may enjoy God, let us be devout, and that we may enjoy God, let us be holy* ; detesting the vices, and despising the vanities of the world.

That the use of the grammatical ellipsis, under certain circumstances, is necessary as well as elegant, appears by this anathesis. The repetition of the words in *Italics*, darkens, in a measure, the sense ; lessens the majesty of expression ; and greatly fatigues the mind.

PUNCTUATION.

PUNCTUATION teaches the nature, and application of the *stops*, that are used in composition.

The stops, or marks, used in composition, are eight. They are named as follows :

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------|-----|
| 1. | A comma | , |
| 2. | A semicolon | ; |
| 3. | A colon | : |
| 4. | A period | . |
| 5. | The parenthesis | () |
| 6. | The horizontal stroke | — |
| 7. | The interrogation | ? |
| 8. | The exclamation | ! |

The

* SEED'S SERMONS, as quoted by ELLIN DEVIS.

The proper use of these marks is attended with some difficulty; and has been thought, by some, not reducible to any determinate rules.

But, as our best writers are, confessedly, the standard of composition; so their use of the stops, or marks, in composition, ought to be the standard of punctuation.

They observe, generally, the following rules of punctuation.

1. A comma must not be used, in a simple sentence.

As, this pen is mine. That is your book. He is a good scholar.

2. All important adverbs must be separated by commas.

As, this man, *however*, has some amiable qualifications.

That the dead will be raised; is, *therefore*, a doctrine of great importance. I am, *moreover*, determined not to imitate him.

3. A comma must be placed, after a noun, that is governed by a verb, in the infinitive mode independent.

As, to confess the *truth*; he is the best scholar.

4. An adverb, qualifying a verb, in the infinitive mode independent, must be separated, by a comma, from the following sentence.

As, "Nevertheless, at this time of day to think *wisely*, we must not always think with philosophers."

5. A comma must be placed after a participle, that is joined to a noun, in the nominative case independent.

As, his authority being *disputed*, he could not command the army.

6. When an adverb qualifies the participle that is joined to the independent noun, then a comma must be placed after it.

As, the moon shining *brightly*, they began their march. The cannon being fired *early*, the enemy formed themselves in battle array.

7. The independent participle, joined to an adverb, must be separated, by commas, from the sentence.

As, "When the sense admits it, the sooner they are dispatched, *generally speaking*, the better." BLAIR.

8. A sentence, in which the present participle is converted into a noun, by the article *the* and preposition *of*, must be separated, by commas.

As, the old world was drowned, by *the overflowing of waters*. By *the avoiding of vile companions*, young men escape many calamities.

When this noun is the nominative case to the verb, then the comma is not to be used.

As, *the repenting of sinners* gives joy to the celestial regions. The comma is only used, when the noun is in the objective case, and governed by a preceding preposition.

9. A sentence must be separated, by commas, in which the present participle, having a preposition preceding it, governs a noun in the objective.

As, Our heavenly Father, *by diffusing his blessings*, shews that he is kind.

10. Nouns, that signify the time *when* or *how long*, admit commas before, and after, them.

As, he will go, *next week*, to Boston. He served, *seven years*, in the army.

11. All nouns and pronouns, expressing persons to whom addresses are made, must be separated by commas.

As, "Thou art, *O King*, a king of kings." I am, *kind Sir*, your most affectionate friend.

12. When two or more substantives are arranged, in a sentence, they should be separated from each other, and also from the following verb.

As, raptures, transports, and ecstasies, *are* the rewards which they confer.

Climate, soil, laws, customs, food, and other incidental differences, *have produced* an astonishing variety, in the complexion, features, manners and faculties, of the human species.

The reason of this rule is plain. Every word conveys a distinct thought; and ought, consequently, as in nature, so in reading and writing, to be distinguished from each other. This principle explains the propriety of a few following rules.

13. When nouns in succession are accompanied with adjectives, they admit their being separated by commas.

As, an extensive plain, the boundless ocean, a verdant lawn, a shady grove, a meandering river, a diversified landscape, a high mountain, and the starry firmament, are beautiful, sublime, and magnificent, objects.

14. A number of adjectives, in succession, each of which may qualify the preceding, or following, noun, may be separated, from each other, by a comma.

As, in support of his opinion, the Hon. Gentleman, that spoke last, has used the most plain, cogent, and conclusive, *arguments*. Sacred history contains a simple, chaste, faithful, dispassionate, and impartial *narration*, of facts.

That each separate adjective qualifies the subsequent noun, is very plain. And, consequently, each adjective ought to be distinguished by a comma. The most modern European writers separate the last adjective from the noun. The propriety of this practice is obvious; for the first, or second, adjective affects, or qualifies, the noun, as much as the last. It is, therefore, proper, that the last should be separated from the noun.

In certain cases, a comma may be placed after the conjunction *that*.

15. A number of verbs, or adverbs, in succession, may be separated by a comma.

As, in a sermon, a preacher may explain, demonstrate, infer, exhort, admonish, comfort.

Exercise ferments the humours, casts them into their proper channels, throws off redundances, and assists nature, in her necessary operations.

To live temperately, chaste, soberly, righteously, and piously, in this world, is the path to immortal life.

16. Nouns, or adjectives, or verbs, that are connected, *in pairs*, by the conjunction *and*, may not be separated, by a comma.

As, there is an essential difference between light *and* darkness, virtue *and* vice, wisdom *and* folly, happiness *and* misery, time *and* eternity.

Jealousy is cruel *and* unreasonable, hasty *and* capricious, violent *and* insatiable, mean *and* contemptible.

Man was made to fear *and* adore, reverence *and* obey, love *and* enjoy, his Maker.

17. A comma may be placed after the disjunctive, *or*, when it connects two, or more, nouns of opposite meaning.

As, who can describe the growth, *or* decay, of plants?

18. Two nouns, or adjectives, or verbs, connected by disjunctive conjunctions, if the latter be accompanied with a qualifying term, may be separated by a comma. As,

As, most novels contain corrupt maxims, or debauching incentives.

Music will captivate the attention of men, or even the brutal creation.

To be, or not to be, that is the question.

19. It is best to omit the comma, when a qualifying term is not joined to the last word.

As, libertines call religion bigotry or superstition.

In the eclogue, there must be nothing rude or vulgar, finical or affected, subtle or abstruse.

Man either love or hate, reverence or disrespect, obey or disobey, their Maker.

20. Nouns in apposition, and the latter being exegetical of the former, or accompanied with a qualifying term, may be separated, by a comma, from the rest of the sentence.

As, Solomon, *the Son of David*, was the wisest of men.

Jesus Christ, *the Saviour of the World*, was born in the reign of Augustus Cæsar.

21. But when the latter noun is not exegetical of the former, nor accompanied with a qualifying term, a comma should not be placed between them.

As, the emperor Marcus Aurelius was a most humane prince.

22. Relative pronouns, and some adverbs, admit a comma before them.

As, he is a fop, *who* is proud of fine clothes. Strength and weapons cannot avail, *where* conduct and courage are wanting.

23. A comma may be used before a preposition, when the sentence will admit a pause, or when the preposition is followed by a relative pronoun.

As, pride and malevolence will be contemned, *in spite of* all the riches and honours a man may possess.

The United States are an empire, *in which* republican principles are well understood.

24. The two members of a compound sentence, that may be elegantly transposed, may have a comma inserted between them.

As, our best actions would make us blush, if men understood our real motives.

25. A comma should ever be used, in a sentence, where the verb is understood.

As,

As, to err is human ; to forgive, divine.

26. A sentence, in which the relative pronoun is the nominative case to the verb, should ever be separated by commas.

As, men, *who are intemperate*, are destructive members of community.

To insert but one comma, in sentences of this kind, is bad punctuation.

As, he who knows not how to *obey*, knows not how to command.

27. The nominative case, when accompanied with several qualifying terms, may be separated, from the verb, by a comma.

As, the good taste of the present age, has not suffered us to neglect the cultivation of the English language.

28. But, when, neither a parenthetical sentence, nor any clause equivalent to a parenthesis, intervenes, between the nominative case and the verb, the comma is improperly used.

As, the society of *ladies* is a school of urbanity.

29. A circumstance, or parenthetical expression, inserted; between the nominative case and the verb, or between the verb and objective case, must be separated by commas.

As, "This attention to the several cases, *when to omit*, and *when to redouble*, the copulative, is of considerable importance to all, who study eloquence."

BLAIR.

"Strong sense, united to delicate sentiments, improved by study and observation, and free from prejudice, is necessary to form a proper judge of literary productions."

30. An adjective, followed by other dependent words, may have a comma before it.

As, Homer's Iliad is a book, *full of the most animating figures*, and sublimest machinery.

31. A comparison, having several terms, and introduced, by an adjective implying likeness, may have a comma preceding it.

As, "The music of Caryl, was *like* the memory of joys, that are past, pleasant and mournful to the soul."*

32. A comma may be inserted before a participle, that admits some subsequent words.

As, Milton compares the standard of Satan to a meteor, *streaming in the air*.

33. A

* O'Shan's Poems.

33. A majestic expression, or one in the form of a quotation, may have a comma before it.

As, God said, *let there be light.*

It wounds the pride of man to say, *I have sinned.*

The comma is a point most used in compolition. The use of it, therefore, requires a particular explanation. My remarks on the other points will be less diffusive.

SEMICOLON.

A member of a sentence, whether simple or compounded, that requires a greater pause than a comma ; and, yet does not make a complete sentence, but is followed by something closely depending on it, may be distinguished by a semicolon.

A semicolon requires, in reading, a longer pause than a comma.

1. A semicolon may be placed before some conjunctions, that express an inference, or an opposition.

As, let your conduct be gentle and unaffected ; *and* it will certainly be engaging.

A jest is not an argument ; *nor* is a loud laugh demonstration.

2. Sentences, that have a distinct connexion with one another, may be separated by a semicolon.

As, "They are naturally led to think, that he has a clear and full conception of all that can be said, on both sides of the argument ; that he has entire confidence in the goodness of his own cause ; and does not attempt to support it, by any artifice, or concealment."

BLAIR.

3. All complete sentences may have a period, at the end. And, yet, if several short sentences follow each other, in close succession, and there is a degree of connexion in their sense, they may be separated by a semicolon.

As, "The pride of wealth is contemptible ; the pride of learning is pitiable ; the pride of dignity and rank is ridiculous ; but the pride of bigotry is insupportable."

COLON.

1. A colon is used when the preceding sentence is complete in syntax ; but is followed by another sentence as exegetical of the former, or as an additional observation, or as an inference.

As,

As, the virtuous are submissive to the will of God : the vicious complain.

The penitent and believing will be happy in the other world : the impenitent and unbelieving will be miserable.

2. A colon ought to be used, when an example, or quotation, or a speech, is introduced in the following manner.

As, "The first is the name of Abelard : "Dear fatal name!" Next Eloisa speaks to herself; and personifies her heart for this purpose : "Hide it, my heart, within that close disguise."
BLAIR.

All our possessions and pleasures have this inscription : *re-joice with trembling.*

3. In general we shou'd use but one colon in a sentence ; for two consequential sentences, or exegetical observations, seldom meet together.

As, "Perspicuous and pure he is in the highest degree ; his precision, indeed, not very great ; yet nearly as great as the subjects which he treats of require : the construction of his sentences easy, agreeable, and commonly very musical ; carrying a character of smoothness, more than of strength."*

PERIOD.

1. In English, a sentence of any kind that is complete in itself, or not dependent on any other, is called a period ; and the mark of this name is placed at the close.

As, "The style is flowing and full, without being too diffuse. It is flowery, but not gaudy ; elevated, but not ostentatious."
BLAIR.

2. Two or more short sentences coming together, and having no connexion in meaning, or syntax, ought to be considered as complete sentences, and to be, accordingly, separated by periods.

As, fear God. Honour the king. Love thy neighbour. Forgive thine enemy. Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing.

3. A period must ever be used at the end of abbreviations.

As, Dr. Mr. Chap. Sec. Esq. Feb. Jan.

PARENTHESIS,

A parenthesis is a sentence, inserted in the middle of another sentence, and containing some remark, that has no connexion

* Blair's opinion of Addison's style.

nexion with the sentence, in which it is inserted. Parentheses ever break the unity of sentences. Elegant writers, therefore, endeavour to avoid a frequent use of them.

HORIZONTAL STROKE.

1. This stroke may, properly, be used, when the sentence breaks off suddenly. As,

“But oh! Ulysses—deeper than the rest.”

“If thou beest he—but oh! how fallen.”

2. Where a long pause is necessary, and a person is waiting for an answer.

As, “Hold up thy hand, make signal of that hope—
He dies, and makes no sign.”

3. In sentences where there is an unexpected turn of thought, or fallacy of wit. As,

“Here thou, great Anna, whom three realms obey,
Dost sometimes counsel take—and sometimes tea.”

“*Here lies the great—false marble, where?*

Nothing but fordid dust lies here.”

Some hasty, incorrect, writers, use the horizontal stroke, at the end of almost every sentence. This practice ought not to be imitated.

INTERROGATION.

The note of interrogation is marked thus ? ; and, in its literal use, it is designed to ask a question. As, *who did this?*

But, when men are prompted by passion, whatever they would affirm or deny, with great vehemence, they naturally put in the form of a question. Thus in scripture, “God is not a man that he should lie, neither the son of man that he should repent. Hath he said it? And shall he not do it? Hath he spoken it? And shall he not make it good?”

EXCLAMATION.

Exclamation is a figure expressing the stronger emotions of the mind. As, *Alas the piety! Alas the ancient faith! And the arm invincible in war!*

FINIS.
