

reality a quantitative adjective. When placed before a noun, it indicates that we are speaking of *some one* of the things for each of which the noun is a name. "An" was used in A. S. as the indefinite article, thus "Mid anum crocscarde," "with a potsherd Aelf," Hom. Its regular use in this manner was not established till after the Norman Conquest. 'Any' (from same root) is still more indefinite than 'one.' In 'a,' the 'n' is dropped for euphony.

The participle is really an adjective. It differs from the ordinary adjectives in this,—that the active participle can take a substantive after it as its object, (some ordinary adjectives, as 'worth,' 'like,' &c., govern the objective case). Even in the perfect tenses, as "I have written a letter," the original of the construction is "I have a letter written," where 'written' is an adjective agreeing with 'letter.' Cf. Latin, "Habeo epistolam scriptam;" French, "Les lettres que J'ai 'écrites.'" In A. S. the perfect participle in the perfect tenses was originally inflected, and made to agree with the object of the verb. In words ending in 'ing,' unless the meaning has an objective force, we must regard the word as an infinitive or noun. The participle is so called from partaking of the nature of both a *verb* and an *adjective*, and it is distinguished from the infinitive in this, that the latter has the force of a substantive, *i. e.*, it is the name of an action.

9. Discuss the grammar of these sentences:—

"O thou my voice inspire

Who touched Isaiah's hallowed lips
with fire."

'Who' is second person and agrees with 'thou;' hence 'touched' should be 'touchedst.' By poetic license the former may be sanctioned. "Ellipsis is when one or more words are wanting to complete the sense." Though this form of expression is used by good writers (see Angus' Grammar),

yet the sentence sounds badly, better, "Ellipsis is the omission of one or more words necessary to complete the sense." "Let us take care how we sin." 'How,' here used for 'lest,' imparts ambiguity to the expression; better, "Let us take care lest we sin." "This blunder is said actually to have occurred" Not 'said actually,' but 'to have occurred actually.' "This blunder is said to have actually occurred." "An example or two are sufficient to illustrate the general principle." In saying 'an example or two,' we really mean that more than one example is to be called into question. Usage would not sanction the singular verb. To arrive at a grammatical purism, we would be compelled to say, "One example is sufficient or two examples are sufficient," &c. "There is more than one fashionable dealer in old furniture, in the west of London, who habitually sells as old furniture, a greater part of which is new." 'More than one' is plural, hence 'are.' Sell what? Corrected—"There are more than one fashionable dealer in old furniture, in the west of London, who habitually sell as old furniture a greater part of which is new." (Notice the change in the position of the comma.)

10. "Orthographical expedients are resorted to on account of the imperfections of the English alphabet, which may be characterized as deficient, redundant and ambiguous."—*Authorised Spelling Book*.

Clearly explain the meaning of the term 'orthographical expedient,' and show in what respects the English alphabet is 'deficient, redundant and ambiguous.'

For a perfect alphabet, every simple sound should have a single sign, no sound should have more than one sign. Similar sounds should be represented by similar signs. Now, 'a' has four sounds, 'o' has three, 'e' two, &c., hence the deficiency