

principal word terminates the compound, the plural sign is placed at the end ; as, *fellow-servant*, *fellow-servants*, &c.

(Some writers use such an expression as "*spoon-fulls*," which is incorrect ; because *full* is an *adjective*, and adjectives in English are *not* varied by "number.")

### EXERCISE.

State the *plural* of each of the following nouns, and whether it is *regular* or *irregular* :

*Salmon, alms, amends, dregs, medium, means, seraph, odds, foot, Scipio, formula, dozen, billiards, news, bandit, goose, penny, camera-obscura, court-martial, magus, sheep, trout, milk, Cæsar, lunacy, cannon, calend, thank, cavalry, &c.*

### CASE.

CASE (from the Latin *cado*, to fall,) means the "falling" or leaning of a noun (or pronoun) from its first state, (or nominative,) in order to show its relation to some other word. There are *three cases* in which a noun is placed. The first case, or state, is called the *nominative* ; the second, the *possessive* ; the third, the *objective*.

I. The NOMINATIVE (from the Latin *nomino*, to name,) is so called because it is mostly used to name the subject of a verb. It generally goes before a verb ; and when it is the *subject* of a verb, it is known by its answering to the question *who ?* or *what ?* Thus, "*William writes correctly.*" Ask who writes correctly ? The answer is *William* ; therefore *William* is the "subject" of the verb *writes*, and the "nominative" case.