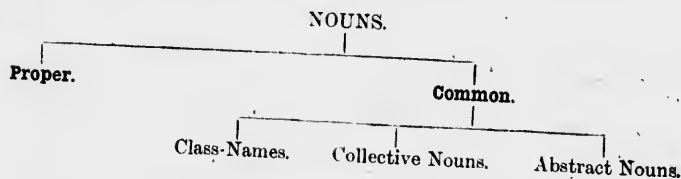


(v) Abstract nouns are sometimes used as collective nouns. Thus we say "the nobility and gentry" for "the nobles and gentlemen" of the land.

(vi) Abstract nouns are formed from other words by the addition of such endings as **ness**, **th**, **ery**, **hood**, **head**, etc.

6. The following is a summary of the divisions of nouns :—



THE INFLEXIONS OF NOUNS.

7. Nouns can be inflected or changed. They are inflected to indicate **Gender**, **Number**, and **Case**.

We must not, however, forget that differences of gender, number, or case are not always indicated by inflexion.

Inflection is a Latin word which means *bending*. An inflexion, therefore, is a bending away from the ordinary form of the word.

GENDER.

8. **Gender** is, in grammar, the mode of distinguishing sex by the aid of words, prefixes, or suffixes.

The word *gender* comes from the Lat. *genus*, *generis* (Fr. *genre*), a kind or sort. We have the same word in *generic*, *general*, etc. (The *d* in *gender* is no organic or true part of the word; it has been inserted as a kind of cushion between the *n* and the *r*.)

(i) **Names of males** are said to be of the **masculine gender**, as *master*, *lord*, *Harry*. Lat. *mas*, a male.

(ii) **Names of females** are of the **feminine gender**, as *mistress*, *lady*, *Harriet*. Lat. *femina*, a woman. (From the same word we have *effeminate*, etc.)

(iii) **Names of things without sex** are of the **neuter gender**, as *head*, *tree*, *London*. Lat. *neuter*, neither. (From the same word we have *neutral*, *neutrality*.)

(iv) **Names of animals**, the sex of which is **not indicated**, are said to be of the **common gender**. Thus, *sheep*, *bird*, *hawk*, *parent*, *servant*, are common, because they may be of either gender.