

GRAMMAR.

Sentence and Clause.

1. A SENTENCE is a group of words expressing a complete thought. It consists of one main statement, command, question, or exclamation, with any number of subordinate ones (called CLAUSES) in some way explaining or completing its sense, or the sense of some part of it.

Statement.

2. A STATEMENT is generally to the effect that some person or thing is the performer of some action, or is in some state ; for instance :

The ass ate the thistles. (action.)

The rain fell and the wind blew. (action.)

The hearts of the people are merry. (state.)

Verb.

3. The word expressing the *fact* of the sentence, whether that fact be the performance of an action or the being in a condition or state, is called a VERB : it is really the "*telling*" word of the sentence,—the vital part, without which there can be no sentence. Thus in paragraph 2 the words

ate, fell, blew, are

are verbs,

Ex. I.—The words italicized in the following extract are verbs :

And they that *were* foolish took their lamps and *took* no oil with them : but the wise took oil in their lamps with their vessels. While the bridegroom *tarried* they all *slumbered* and slept, and at midnight a cry *was made*, " Behold the bridegroom cometh : *go ye out to meet him.*"