

A COMPENDIUM OF ENGLISH GRAMMAR, B

Designed not to be Studied, but to be spread before the Learner in Parsing previous to his ha

ETYMOLOGY.

NOUNS.

A **NOUN** is the name of any person, place, or thing.

A **common noun** is the name of a sort or species of things.

A **proper noun** is the name of an individual.

A noun signifying many, is called a **collective noun**, or noun of multitude.

The **masculine gender** denotes the male sex.

The **feminine gender** denotes the female sex.

The **neuter gender** denotes things which have no sex.

The **first person** denotes the speaker.

The **second person** denotes the person or thing which is spoken to.

The **third person** denotes the person or thing which is spoken of.

The **singular number** implies but one.

The **plural number** implies more than one.

The **nominative case** denotes the actor or subject of the verb.

The **possessive case** denotes the possessor of something.

The **objective case** expresses the object of an action or of a relation.

VERBS.

A **VERB** is a word which signifies to BE, to DO, or to SUFFER.

An **active verb** expresses action or energy.

An active verb is **transitive** when the action passes over from the subject or nominative to an object.

An active verb is **intransitive** when the action does not terminate on an object.

A **passive verb** denotes action received or endured by the person or thing which is its nominative.

A **neuter verb** expresses neither action nor passion, but being, or a state of being.

Verbs are called **regular** when they form their imperfect tense of the indicative mood, and their perfect participle, by adding to the present tense *ed*, or *d* only when the verb ends in *e*.

Verbs are **irregular** when their imperfect tense and perfect participle do not end in *ed*.

The **indicative mood** simply indicates or declares a thing, or asks a question.

The **subjunctive mood** expresses action, passion, or being, in a doubtful or conditional manner.

The **imperative mood** is used for commanding, exhorting, entreating, or permitting.

The **potential mood** implies possibility, liberty, or necessity; power, will, or obligation.

The **infinitive mood** expresses action, passion, or being, in an unlimited manner, having no nominative; consequently, neither person nor number.

The **present tense** denotes an action or event in present time.

The **imperfect tense** denotes a past action or event, however distant.

The **perfect tense** denotes past time, and also conveys an allusion to the present.

The **pluperfect tense** represents a past action or event that transpired before some other past time specified.

The **first future tense** denotes a future action or event.

The **second future tense** represents a future action that will be fully accomplished, at or before the time of another future action or event.

ARTICLES.

An **ARTICLE** is a word prefixed to nouns, to limit their signification.

The **indefinite article** limits the noun to one of a kind, but to no particular one.

The **definite article** generally limits the noun to a particular object, or collection of objects.

ADJECTIVES.

An **ADJECTIVE** is a word added to a noun, to express its quality or kind.

The **positive degree** expresses the quality of an object without any increase or diminution.

The **comparative degree** increases or lessens the positive in signification.

The **superlative degree** increases or lessens the positive to the highest or lowest degree.

Words used in counting are called **numeral adjectives** of the cardinal kind.

Words used in numbering are called **numeral adjectives** of the ordinal kind.

PARTICIPLES.

A **PARTICIPLE** is a word derived from a verb, and partakes of the nature of a verb, and also of an adjective.

The **present participle** denotes action or being continued, but not perfected.

The **perfect participle** denotes action or being perfected or finished.

The **compound participle** implies action or being completed before the time referred to.

ADVERBS.

An **ADVERB** is a word used to modify the sense of a verb, a participle, an adjective, or another adverb.

PREPOSITIONS.

A **PREPOSITION** is a word which serves to connect words, and show the relation between them.

PRONOUNS.

A **PRONOUN** is a word used instead of a noun, and generally to avoid the too frequent repetition of the same word.

PERSONAL PRONOUNS are those which denote the persons of the nouns for which they stand.

ADJECTIVE PRONOUNS are a kind of adjectives which point out nouns by some distinct specification.

The **distributive adjective pronouns** are those which denote the persons or things that make up a number, each taken separately and singly.

The **demonstrative** are those which precisely point out the subject to which they relate.

The **indefinite** are those which point out their subject in an indefinite or general manner.

RELATIVE PRONOUNS are such as relate, in general, to some word or phrase going before, which is called the antecedent.

CONJUNCTIONS.

A **CONJUNCTION** is a part of speech that is chiefly used to connect sentences, joining two or more simple sentences into one compound sentence; it sometimes connects only words.

A **copulative conjunction** serves to connect and continue a sentence, by joining on a member which expresses an addition, a supposition, or a cause.

A **conjunction disjunctive** serves to connect and continue a sentence, by joining on a member which expresses opposition of meaning.

INTERJECTIONS.

An **INTERJECTION** is a word used to express some passion or emotion of the speaker.

RULES OF SYNTAX.

RULE 1.—The article *a* or *an* agrees with nouns in the singular number only.

RULE 2.—The definite article *the* belongs to nouns in the singular or plural number.

RULE 3.—The nominative case governs the verb.

RULE 4.—The verb must agree with its nominative in number and person.

NOTE 1.—Every verb, when it is not in the infinitive mood, must have a nominative expressed or implied.

2.—When a verb comes between two nouns, either of which may be considered as the subject of the affirmation, it must agree with that which is the more naturally its subject.

RULE 5.—When an address is made, the noun or pronoun addressed is put in the nominative case *independent*.

NOTE 1.—A noun is independent when it has no verb to agree with it.

2.—Interjections require the objective case of a pronoun of the first person after them, but the nominative of a noun or pronoun of the second or third person.

RULE 6.—A noun or pronoun placed before a participle, and being independent of the rest of the sentence, is in the nominative case *absolute*.

NOTE.—Every nominative case, except the case absolute and independent, should belong to some verb expressed or understood.

RULE 7.—Two or more nouns, or nouns and pronouns, signifying the same thing, are put, by apposition, in the same case.

RULE 8.—Two or more nouns, or nouns and pronouns, in the singular number, connected by copulative conjunctions, must have verbs, nouns, and pronouns, agreeing with them in the plural.

NOTE.—When each of every relates to two or more nominatives in the singular, although connected by a copulative, the verb must agree with each of them in the singular.

RULE 9.—Two or more nouns, or nouns and pronouns, in the singular number, connected by disjunctive conjunctions, must have verbs, nouns, and pronouns agreeing with them in the singular.

NOTE 1.—When singular pronouns, or a noun and pronoun, of different persons, are disjunctively connected, the verb must agree in person with that which is placed nearest to it.

2.—When a disjunctive occurs between a singular noun or pronoun and a plural one, the verb must agree with the plural noun or pronoun, which should generally be placed next to the verb.

RULE 10.—A collective noun, or noun of multitude, conveying *unity* of idea, may have a verb or pronoun agreeing with it in the singular.

RULE 11.—A noun of multitude conveying *plurality* of idea, may have a verb or pronoun agreeing with it in the plural.

RULE 12.—A noun or pronoun in the possessive case is governed by the noun it possesses.

NOTE 4.—Participles frequently govern nouns and pronouns in the possessive case.

RULE 13.—Personal pronouns must agree with the nouns for which they stand in *gender* and *number*.

NOTE.—*You*, though frequently employed to represent a singular noun, is always *plural in form*; therefore the verb connected with it should be plural.

RULE 14.—Relative pronouns agree with their antecedents in *gender*, *person*, and *number*.