

at the first strain of actual practice, and results in disappointment and disgust. It must be understood, therefore, that the present work will only enable the young student to deal with sentences of perfectly plain and ordinary construction. By the time he has gone through it, he will be able to analyse sentences of very moderate difficulty; but he must not be daunted if he finds that for the present, he can do no more. I think he will find that what he knows, he knows well; and he will afterwards attack the more difficult constructions, as they are presented to him in my larger grammars, with interest and confidence.

The Exercises in this edition have been greatly amplified, and entirely remodelled upon the plan adopted in my recently published "Shorter English Grammar." This is one of the most important parts of the work. Young learners cannot master wordy discussions presented to them in a book. They require clear, short, and accurate definitions and rules, brought within their comprehension by the *oral* explanation and illustrations of an intelligent teacher, and followed up by abundant practice, embodied in carefully graduated exercises. In dealing with these also the work of beginners should, as far as possible, be gone through *vivâ voce*. I have endeavoured to make these exercises as varied, useful, and lively as possible. Young learners hate prosy, stilted sentences. They enter much better into the grammar of an illustration, if the subject-matter of it is something familiar to their daily lives and thoughts; and an occasional laugh at some homely topic does a good deal towards dispelling the listlessness which is apt to creep over a class.

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