

ONE WAY OF TEACHING GRAMMAR.—(VIII.)

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Topic: Verb.

Definition: A verb is a word which may be used as a predicate or as a copula. (This definition is sufficient while the pupil is studying analysis. When he studies the parts of speech, preparatory to parsing, a more specific definition may be substituted).

Method: In the sentence, "Ill habits grow by unseen degrees," how is the word "grow" used?

Ans.—As the predicate.

In the sentence, "Fidelity is the sister of Justice," how is the word "is" used?

Ans.—As the copula.

A word that may be used as a predicate or as a copula, is a verb. Define.

EXERCISE I.

Select the verbs on page—of your Reader. In each case state whether the word is used as a predicate or as a copula.

EXERCISE II.

Write twelve sentences containing verbs. In the first six let the verbs be predicates; in the last six, copulas. Underline the verbs.

In the sentence, "The statement has been proved false," notice that the copula is "has been proved." Sometimes, as in this case, the copula consists of more than one word. In the sentence, "The injury must have been occasioned by a fall," observe that the simple predicate is, "must have been occasioned." Hence we see that the verb is sometimes expressed by several words. (Farther on, the expressions, "verb phrase" and "compound verbal forms," employed by Prof. Whitney, may, if preferred, be substituted.)

EXERCISE III.

Select the verbs in the following sentences, stating in each case whether the verb is a predicate or copula

1. Men have been bought for gold.
2. The Picts were driven from Britain by the Angles and Saxons.
3. The Picts are said to have been conquered by the Angles and Saxons.
4. Man became a living soul.
5. Charles II. was joyfully received by the people.
6. Albert Durer may be called the Father of German Art.
7. I will listen to your song.
8. The foe and the stranger will tread o'er his head.
9. A little weeping would ease my heart.
10. The snow shall be their winding-sheet.

Topic: Adverbial element.

Definition: An adverbial element is whatever limits a verb, and answers the question, Why? How? When? Where? or How often? We sometimes have an adverbial element, answering the question, How? or How much? limiting an adjective or an adverbial element.

Method: Observe the following sentences:—

1. Then comes thy glory in the summer months.
2. Speak gently.
3. Treat old age with reverence.
4. Press onward.
5. The splendor falls on castle walls.
6. Look in the sky to find the moon.
7. Therefore will I go.
8. Flowers never emit so sweet a fragrance as before a storm.
9. Most gladly will I yield.
10. They seldom fail who die in a just cause.
11. He speaks far more rapidly than John.

What does "Then" in the first sentence limit? What question does it answer?

Ans. It limits "comes" and answers the question "When?"

What does "in the summer months" limit? What question does it answer?

What does "gently" in the second sentence, limit? Answers what question?

Take the third sentence. What does "with reverence" limit? What question does it answer?

Proceed in a similar way with "onward," and "on castle walls," in Nos. 4 and 5; with "therefore," and "to find," in Nos. 7 and 6; with "seldom" in No. 10.

Whatever limits a verb and answers the question, Why? How? When? Where? or How often? is an adverbial element.

In the eighth sentence we have the word "so." What kind of a word does it limit?

Ans.—An adjective.

What question does it answer?

Ans.—It answers the question, How?

What kind of an element is "gladly," in the ninth sentence?

Ans.—An adverbial element.

Then what does "most" limit?

Ans.—It limits an adverbial element.

It answers what question?

Ans.—The question How?

By what is "more," the adverbial element in No. 11 limited?

Ans.—By "far."

What question does this element answer?

Ans.—How much?

"So," "must," and "far," are also adverbial elements. Add to your definition of an adverbial element this statement: We sometimes have an adverbial element, limiting an adjective or an adverbial element, answering the question, How, or How much?

EXERCISE I.

Select the adverbial elements in the following sentences, and state what question is answered by each.

1. Now fades the glimmering landscape on the sight.
2. How gloriously springs above us the tented dome of heavenly blue.
3. Civilization depends on morality.
4. Love is swift of foot.
5. Some evils are cured by contempt.
6. Great thoughts originate from large hearts.
7. After the battle of arms comes the battle of history.
8. The temperate are the most truly luxurious.
9. One morn, a Peri at the gate of Eden stood.
10. Cowards die many times before their deaths.

EXERCISE II.

Write sentences containing adverbial elements. Present an example for every question that an adverbial element can answer.

EXERCISE III.

Analyze the sentences in Exercise I.; also those given in "Method," under the "topic," Adverbial Element, with the exception of Nos. 6, 8, 10, and 11.

(Definitions may now be omitted, save of terms last taught.)

Educational Notes and News.

The closing exercises at Alma Ladies' College takes place on the 20th—24th inst. An interesting programme is published.

The annual meeting of the Whitby Mechanics' Institute, was held in the Reading Room, on Tuesday evening, June 16th, 1885. The President, Mr. Willis, in the chair. The Librarian reported the number of issues of books during the year as 2,237.—*Whitby Gazette*.

The names of the graduating class at the Wesleyan Ladies' College at Hamilton are as follows:—Misses Beun, Bright; Mann, Hamilton; McClung, Toronto; Watson, Brampton; Wakefield, Thorold; McDonagh, Sarnia; Holmes, Wingham; Huff, Florence; Keayes, Hamilton.