

Of NUMBER.

Number is the distinction of *one* from *more*.

Nouns have *two* numbers: the *Singular* and the *Plural*. The singular denotes *one*, and the plural *more* than one.

1. The plural is generally formed by adding *s* to the singular; as, *Book, books*.

2. Nouns in *s, sh, ch, x, or o*, form the plural by adding *es*; as, *Miss, Misses*; *brush, brushes*; *match, matches*; *fox, foxes*; *hēro, heroes*.—p. 10, b.*

3. Nouns in *y* change *y* into *ies* in the plural; as, *Lady, ladies*:—*y*, with a vowel before it, is not changed into *ies*; as, *Day, days*.

4. Nouns in *f*, or *fe*, change *f*, or *fe*, into *ves* in the plural; as, *Loaf, loaves*; *life, lives*.

OBSERVATIONS.

Nouns ending in *ch*, sounding *k*, form the plural by adding *s* only; as, *Stomach, stomachs*.

Nouns in *io*, with *junto, canto, tyro, grotto, portico, solo, and quarto*, have *s* only in the plural; as, *Folio, folios*; *canto, cantos*.

Nouns in *ff* have their plural in *s*; as, *Muff, muffs*; except *staff*, which sometimes has *staves*.

Dwarf, scarf, wharf; *brief, chief, grief, kerchief, handkerchief, mischief*; *gulf, turf, surf*; *fife, strife*; *proof, hoof, roof, and reproof*, never change *f* or *fe*, into *ves*—14 change *f* or *fe*, into *ves*, 27 don't.—K. p. 22, b.

Nouns are either *proper* or *common*.—*Proper* nouns are the names of persons, places, seas, and rivers, &c.; as, *Thomas, Scotland, Forth*.*

Common nouns are the names of things in general; as, *Chair, table*.

Collective nouns are nouns that signify *many*; as, *Multitude, crowd*.

Abstract nouns are the names of *qualities* abstracted from their substances; as, *Wisdom, wickedness*.

Verbal or *participial* nouns are nouns derived from verbs; as, *Reading*.

* *Proper* nouns have the plural only when they refer to a *race* or *family*: as, *The Campbells*: or to several persons of the *same name*; as, *The eight Henrys*; the two *Mr. Bells*; the two *Miss Browns*; (or without the *numeral*) the *Miss Roys*; but, in addressing letters in which *both* or *all* are equally concerned, and also when the names are *different*, we pluralize the *title* (*Mr.* or *Miss*) and write *Misses Brown*; *Misses Roy*; *Messrs.* (for *Messieurs*, Fr.) *Guthrie and Tait*.