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OUTLINES OF ENGLISH GRAMMAR.

INTRODUCTION.

- 1. Speech or language is the expression of thought by means of words.
- 2. Words are significant combinations of elementary sounds. These sounds are represented to the eye by marks or symbols called letters, the whole collection of which is called the Alphabet (from alpha, beta, the names of the first two letters of the Greek Alphabet). The right mode of uttering the sounds that make up a word is called Orthoëpy (from the Greek orthos, 'right,' and epos, 'spoken word'). The right mode of representing the sounds that make up a word by means of letters is called Orthography (from the Greek orthos, 'right,' and grapho, 'I write').
- **3.** A sentence (Latin *sententia*, 'thought') is a collection of words of such kinds and arranged in such a manner as to express some complete thought. The words of which sentences are made up are of different sorts, according to the kind of purpose which they serve in a sentence.

Thus, in the sentence "The little bird flies swiftly through the air," bird is the name of something that we speak about; the points out which bird is meant; little describes the bird; flies tells us something about the bird, by stating what it does; swiftly denotes the manner in which the bird does this; through shows how the action of the bird has to do with the air.