

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.