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"I see the book." As a general rule, the nominative is placed before the verb, the objective case after it; although in poetry or rhetoric this order is not always observed. A noun is said to be in the *possessive* case when it is stated as owning or possessing something—as, "that book is William's."

The names of males are said to be of the *masculine* gender—as *man, horse, tiger*; of females, of the *feminine* gender—as *woman, mare, tigress*; and those of things, whether male nor female, are of the *neuter* gender—as *book or table*; but those nouns which may be the names of either males or females, are said to be of the *common* gender—as *parents, child, cousin, relation*.

II.—THE ADJECTIVE.

The next part of speech is the "ADJECTIVE," a word added to a noun substantive to signify the addition of some quality, circumstance, or manner of being. The word is derived from the Latin *ad-jectus*, "added to;" thus denoting that it is added to or joined beside the noun. It is also called the *Adnoun*.

With the help of the adjective we can the more readily distinguish the noun, which it is an adjective before it—as, "a *virtuous man*," "a *wise legislator*." By the aid of the noun, also, we can distinguish the adjective, which admits a noun after it. Adjectives may likewise be known by answering to the questions—"What sort of?" "What kind of?" as, "What sort of a woman is she?" An *amiable* woman. "What kind of weather is it?" It is *fine* weather.

Adjectives have been classified under different denominations—as *common, possessive, demonstrative, pronominal, numeral*, &c. The *common* adjective denotes quality, as, "a *good man*." The *possessive* or *pronoun* adjectives are *my, thy, his, her, its, our, their*, and *whose*. The words *the* (usually called a definite article), *this, that, those, yon, yonder*, and *other*, may be considered as *demonstrative* adjectives. The *numeral* adjective denotes something relating to *number*—as *two boys, many horses, second man*.

The English adjective is not inflected for gender or case, or even in the plural, except the words *this* and *that*, which take *these* and *those* in the plural. But the adjective is sometimes inflected to express the different degrees of the quality which it denotes; and these inflexions are called *degrees of comparison*. They are three in number, the *positive*, the *comparative*, and the *superlative*. The *positive degree* simply denotes the presence of the quality, without comparison with any other object, and is expressed by the adjective in its radical form—as, a *hard* stone. The *comparative degree* denotes the presence of the quality in a higher degree than in some other object to which it is compared—as, a *harder* stone. The *superlative degree* indicates the presence of the quality in the highest degree, and is used when we compare three or more objects—as, the *hardest* stone. The general rule for forming the degrees of comparison is to add *er* for the comparative, and *est* for the superlative, although there are some striking exceptions in our language—as, *good, better, best; bad, worse, &c.; little, less, least, &c.*

III.—THE PRONOUN.

The word "PRONOUN" expresses its meaning distinctly. It is derived from the Latin *pro nomine*, "for the noun." It is used to avoid the repetition of the noun, and prevents the jarring on the ear, and the confusion which would arise from the repetition of the same word. It continues the application of a noun when it has been previously mentioned, so that it need not be repeated, or not so often, as otherwise would be necessary; and, as it is a substitute for a noun, it partakes of its nature and denoting properties.

There are three kinds of pronouns, *personal, relative*, and *interrogative*. The *personal* pronouns are *I, thou or you, he, she, it*. *I* is a pronoun of the first person, and refers to the person speaking. It is the word by which he names himself, or herself, as the subject of the sentence; as, *I* saw him. *Thou or you* is a pronoun of the second person, and refers to the person to whom we are speaking—as, *thou* lovest him; *you* ask correctly. *He, she, and it*, are pronouns of the third person, and denote some person or thing spoken of—as, *he* writes well; *she* paints beautifully; *it* cannot be named. The *relative* pronouns are *who, which, and that*, and refer to some noun or pronoun in the same sentence called its *antecedent*, because it usually precedes the relative pronoun. *Who* is applied only to persons; *which* to neuter objects, or the other animals; and *that* to either—as, the man *who* wrote the letter, and whom *you* see to-day; the book *which* I gave you; the dog *that* bit him. *What* is a compound relative pronoun, having the same meaning as *which* preceded by *that*—as, tell me *what* you want; *that which* you want. The *interrogative* pronouns are those used in