

8. "What is meant by the terms "strong" and "weak" applied to the conjugation of verbs? Explain the difference between the two forms of conjugation by telling what you know about their history."

For answer, see in the January and February numbers of the *Magazine*, the article on "The Verb."

9. "Discuss the inflections of the verbs *may*, *shall*, *can*, *have*, *will*, *do*."

*May* was an old past tense of *magan*, to be able, which has passed into a present sense. The past *might* is of weak conjugation, the *ght* arising from the union of the guttural *g* with the ending *ed*. The personal ending *est* or *st* in the second person singular, present and past are the ending of old personal pronouns. The 3rd sing. personal ending in *may* and also in *can*, *shall* and *will* (except when = resolve, determine) is dropped.

*Shall* was a preterite of *sculan* to owe, and when it passed into a present meaning another preterite *should*, of weak conjugation, was employed to supply its place. The personal ending *t* in 2nd sing. *shalt* is an older form of *st* and was used in the preterite only.

*Can* was the preterite of *cunnan* to know, when it changed in meaning to a present the past tense could was formed, in which an *l* was inserted from a supposed analogy with *will*, *would* and *shall*, *should*. The A. S. form of past tense was *cuthie* seen in *uncouth* from the perfect participle.

*Have*, the ending of the present participle *ing* was originally *ande* or *ende* which was contracted into *en* and finally changed to *ing*.

The past tense and past participle had are contracted from *haved*. *Hast* is for *hapest*, and *has* for *haves*; *hath* is for *haveth* (*eth* being an old personal ending.)

*Will* has *willt* in the second person sing. formed after the analogy of *shall*, although it is present, and *t* was used only with preterites. In O. E. *shal* and *wil* are found for *shalt* and *willt*.

*Would* is formed by weak conjugation from a collateral form *wol* A. S. = *wolde*.

*Do* is remarkable as being the only remaining verb that forms its preterite by reduplication *dodo*=*dode*=*dide*=*did* as *fefeci*=*feci*. The *ing* of *doing* is explained under *have*.

*Done* is a modified form of *doen*, *en*, or *n* being the ending of the past participle.

*Dost* is used when the verb is an auxiliary.

*Doest* is transitive.

*Doth* is for *doeth*, as *hath* for *haveth*.

10. "Account for the use of *to* in the infinitive present, and for its occasional omission in an infinitive after a verb, as, 'I daresay' "

In A. S. the infinitive ended in *an* and was declined as a noun; the Dative case, which was preceded by the preposition *to*, ended in *-anne* or *-enne* and was used to denote purpose. This Dative passed into modern English with loss of inflexion, but retained the preposition *to*. From denoting the purpose of an action it came to mark the ground of an action more generally. This infinitive of purpose or gerundial infinitive of purpose as it is called thus supplanted the simple infinitive, except after a few verbs, such as *may*, *can*, *bid*, *dare*, &c., which are generally followed by the old simple infinitive.

11. "Make two classifications of adverbs; one logical, according to their meaning; the other etymological according to their form and origin."