

LESSON II.

You remember that in our last lesson we learned that we must first get the thought before we could read. Now we are to study how to get the thought.

Did you ever notice how you think? If you hear the word "car," what do you think of? Some of a horse car; some of an electric car; and some of a steam car. So you see the word "car" by itself doesn't give us a very clear picture.

The words "I saw" don't mean very much either. For unless we know what you saw we get nothing to think about.

The two words "in a" don't mean much, and by this time you know why.

Let us put all these words together and add a word or two; "I saw a man in a steam car." Now we have a clear picture. What do we learn from this? We learn that a single word doesn't give us a clear picture and that it takes three, and four, and sometimes many words to give us a picture. We can think "I saw a man," or "in a steam car;" but we get a complete sentence only when we put these two groups of words together. We also notice that while it takes just a moment to see a picture it often takes many words to describe it.

What we have done is called grouping, that is, reading several words together, just as we read the syllables of a word. Let us try some examples.