

3. Separated Subjects of Different Persons, &c.—When two or more substantives, taken separately, are of **different persons** or **numbers**, the verb agrees with the one next it, and the plural subject is usually placed next the verb; as, James or I *am* in the wrong. Neither the captain nor the sailors *were* saved.

4. Sequence of Tense.—(1) When one verb depends upon another, the proper succession of tenses must be attended to; as, He *tells* me that he *will*. He *promised* that he *would* do so.

(2) Propositions regarded as universally true are generally put in the **present** tense, whatever tense precedes them; as, Plato believed that the soul *is* immortal.

The force of this remark may be better illustrated in this way:—

He may speak	if he can,	if he will,	if he be inclined.
“ might “	“ could,	“ would,	“ were “
He can write	if he may,		if he choose.
“ could “	“ might,		“ chose.
He will go	if he may,	if he can,	if he think fit.
“ would “	“ might,	“ could.	“ thought “
	&c.,	&c.	

5. The Infinitive Mood.—(1) This mood has no **nominative** but has its subject in the **objective**; as, I saw *him* jump. Here *him* is the **subject** of the infinitive mood, the **object** of the verb *saw* being ‘*him* jump.’ (2) This mood is found after verbs, adjectives, and nouns; as, I *told* him to do so. *Anxious* to learn. *A desire* to improve.

6. Sign Omitted.—‘*To*,’ the sign of the infinitive, is not used after the verbs ‘*bid*,’ ‘*dare*,’ (intrans.) ‘*need*,’ (used as an auxiliary,) ‘*make*,’ ‘*see*,’ ‘*hear*,’ ‘*feel*,’ ‘*let*,’ in the **active** voice, and after ‘*let*,’ in the **passive**; as, I saw him do it. You need not go.

7. Participles.—(1) The Participles often require other words to complete the sense, and are, therefore followed (as verbs) by the ‘**objective case** ;’ and they may stand either before or after their nouns; as, *Leaning* my head upon my hand, I began to figure to myself the miseries of confinement.—*Sterne*.

(2) They sometimes refer to some indefinite word which is omitted; as, *Granting* this to be true, what is the inference? Here we may supply the pronoun *we*, which stands in the **nominative absolute**.

(3) The past tense and the past participle of a verb must not be interchanged; as, I *done*—for ‘I have done,’ or, I have *drank*—for ‘I have drunk.’