

THE  
PRINCIPLES  
OF  
ENGLISH GRAMMAR.

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ENGLISH GRAMMAR is the art of speaking and writing the English Language with propriety.

It is divided into four parts; namely, *Orthography*, *Etymology*, *Syntax*, and *Prosody*.

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ORTHOGRAPHY.

ORTHOGRAPHY teaches the nature and powers of letters, and the just method of spelling words.

A LETTER is the least part of a Word.

There are *twenty-six* letters in English.

Letters are either Vowels or Consonants.

A *Vowel* is a letter, the name of which makes a *full open* sound. The Vowels are *a, e, i, o, u, w, y*.—The Consonants are *b, c, d, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, p, q, r, s, t, v, x, z*.

A Consonant is a letter that has a sound *less distinct* than that of a Vowel; as, *l, m, p*.

A *Diphthong* is the union of two vowels; as, *ou* in *out*.

A *proper* Diphthong is one in which *both* the vowels are sounded; as, *oy* in *boy*.

An *improper* Diphthong is one in which only *one* of the two vowels is sounded; as, *o* in *boat*.

A *Triphthong* is the union of three vowels; as, *eau* in *beauty*.

A *Syllable* is a part of a word, or as much as can be sounded at once; as, *far* in *far-mer*.

A *Monosyllable* is a word of *one* syllable; as, *fox*.

A *Dissyllable* is a word of *two* syllables; as, *Pe-ter*.

A *Trissyllable* is a word of *three* syllables; as, *but-ter-fly*.

A *Polysyllable* is a word of *many* syllables.

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**Q** Why should *judgement*, *abridgement*, &c., be spelled without *e*? How can *g* be soft like *j* without it?—See Walker's Dictionary, under *judgment*.