

qualifies the noun; the Pronoun is used in place of the noun; the Verb asserts, commands, or asks a question; the Adverb qualifies a verb, adjective, or other adverb; the Proposition shows the relation of a noun or pronoun, that follows it, to something which has gone before; the Conjunction connects words or sentences; and the Interjection is an abrupt exclamation.

On referring to the dictionary the student will find words innumerable which are both substantives and verbs, or substantives and adjectives, or verbs active and neuter, according to the respective senses in which they are used. Thus the common word "Act" is explained as a substantive, a verb active, and a verb neuter; while "Except" appears not only as a verb active and neuter, but also as a preposition in a conjunction. Hence arises the necessity of clearly understanding the true import and value of these terms, which, in truth, constitute the nomenclature of grammar and the backbone of philology. We shall therefore take each of the eight parts of speech in due order.

I.—THE NOUN SUBSTANTIVE.

The term "NOUN" is derived from the Latin word *Nomen*, which signifies "name." It is that part of speech which had its origin with the incipient dawnings of society, and was doubtless coeval with man's first existence; for the name of whatever we can think of or speak about is a noun; a noun being the name of whatever can be perceived by the outer senses, or by the inward mind; it is, in truth, the name of any person, place, quality, or principle. The noun, then, is the first grand division of words, or, as each division is called, a *part of speech*. This primary division of speech has also received the name of *Substantive*; thereby indicating that the noun means that which has substance, or that which exists in a tangible or visible shape. In short, it is the *name-word* of all languages.

Noun-substantives are of two different kinds—*Proper* and *Common*.

Proper nouns are mostly the names of persons, places, and notable objects or events, and serve to distinguish one individual of a class from others of the same class. Thus the words England, Victoria, Edinburgh, Snowdon, the Tront, Monday, July, &c., are proper nouns, or names, which ought always to begin with a capital letter.

Of Common nouns there are various kinds which have particular names applied to them—as, *abstract, collective, verbal, and compound*. An *Abstract* noun may be defined as a noun expressing some quality or property. These nouns have usually one of the terminations *tion, ness, ment, dom, ty, nec, or th*—as, *salvation, goodness, discernment, freedom, purity, benevolence, length, &c.* A *Collective* noun is a noun meaning many individuals spoken of as one object or one mass—as, *the assembly, the army, the crowd, the people, the peasantry, &c.* A *Verbal* noun is the infinitive or present participle of a verb used as a noun—as, *to steal* is forbidden; *stealing* is forbidden, &c. A *Compound* noun is a noun formed of one or more words—as, *milk-maid, dining-room, school-boy, &c.*

Nouns are subject to certain inflexions. Thus, to form the plural of the word *lion* (which is the root or radical form of the word), we have to add an *s*, making *lions*, and to produce the genitive or possessive case, we add *'s*, as *the lion's share*. With the addition of *ess*, it expresses the feminine gender, *lioness*. These inflexions are what are called *number, case, and gender*.

The usual formation of the plural of the English noun, by simply adding *s* to the singular, is derived from the Anglo-Saxon—as *dagas*, days; *endas*, ends, &c.; but there are various exceptions to the general rule for the formation of the plural. For instance, many nouns, derived from other languages, retain their original plurals—as *addendum, animalculum, arcanum, automaton, criterion, datum, desideratum, dictum, effluviolum, emporium, encomium, erratum, medium, memorandum, momentum, parhelion, phenomenon, speculum, and stratum*, which change the singular *um* or *on* into *i* according to the custom of the Latins and the Greeks, from whom the words are adopted. In the same manner the words *analysis, antithesis, axis, basis, crisis, ellipsis, hypothesis, metamorphosis, oasis, phasis, parenthesis, and thesis*, change the *is* into *es*; *focus, fungus, magus, polypus, radius, stimulus, and virtuosus*, change the *us* into *i*; *formula, lumina, larva, macula, nebula, and scoria*, take *e* in the plural; *apex, appendix, index, radix, vertex, and vortex*, change *ex* or *ix* into *ices*. Some nouns have the singular and plural alike—as *deer, sheep, species, apparatus, &c.* Other nouns, on the contrary, have no singular—as *alms, ashes, annals, antipodes, breche, bowels, bellows, bitiards, cattle, compasses, clothes, goods, lungs, manners, mathematical, news, optics, oats, minutiae, politics, riches, scissors, snuffers, statistics, thanks, tongs, victuals, and wages*.

A noun is said to be in the *nominative case* when it is the subject of the sentence, as, "the book is there" and in the *objective case* when it is the object of the sentence