

VARIATIONS OF THE POSSESSIVE.

1. When the nominative plural ends in *s*, the possessive plural is formed by adding the apostrophe only; as, nominative plural *boys*, possessive plural *boys'*; nominative plural *roads*, possessive plural *roads'*. But when it does not end in *s*, the possessive is formed by adding an apostrophe and *s*, (as in the singular); as, nominative plural *men*, possessive plural *men's*.

2. Sometimes, when the singular ends in *ss*, *s*, or *ce*, only the apostrophe is added; as, for goodness' sake; for conscience' sake, &c.: except *witness*; as, "The *witness's* evidence."

3. When two or more possessive cases are united by the conjunction *and*, only the last receives the apostrophe when *common* possession is implied; as, "It was my father and mother's house."

4. When the conjunctions *neither*, *nor*, &c., come between them, all the possessive cases retain the *s*; as, "*This house is neither William's nor John's, but Thomas's*:" also when *common* possession is *not* intended; as, "The landlord's and tenant's hay was good," meaning that some of the hay belonged to the landlord and some to the tenant.

III. THE OBJECTIVE CASE (from the Latin *ob*, against, and *jactus*, thrown or laid,) represents the person or thing *acted upon*, and generally follows a verb or preposition; as, "The boy learns his *lesson*"; "the lesson was learned by the *boy*."

When the objective case follows a transitive verb, it is the object of an *action*; as, "James