

A vowel is a letter which can be fully sounded by itself.

A consonant is a letter which cannot be fully sounded without having a vowel either before or after it.

There are sixteen mutes in English; they are classified as follows :

|          | Sharp.   | Flat.   |
|----------|----------|---------|
| Lene     | p        | b       |
|          | t        | d       |
|          | k        | g       |
|          | s        | z       |
| Aspirate | f        | v       |
|          | th       | dh      |
|          | sh       | zh      |
|          | tsh (ch) | dsh (j) |

Words in Greek and Latin with P,B,F., (labials), T,D,Th., (dentals), K,C,Ch., (palatals), when they occur in Maeso-Gothic change these letters into F,P,B., (labials), Th,T,D., (dentals), H,C,K,G., (palatals), and when they occur in Old H. German they are changed into V,F,P., (labials), D,Z,T., (dentals), H,C,Ch,K., (palatals).

4. "Describe the several ways of indicating gender in English nouns, including the explanation of the words *woman*, *lady*, *vixen*, *seamstress*, *mistress*, *bridegroom*, *widower*, *drake*."

Distinctions of gender based on the form of words are in English very incomplete. Neuter nouns have no peculiar form. Masculine and feminine nouns are thus distinguished :

I. By the use of a compound, part of which indicates the gender, as : 'he-goat,' 'schoolmistress.' 'Woman' is a compound=wif-man, i. e., the man or person that weaves. In pronunciation the 'i' sound is modified to 'o' by the influence of the 'a' sound in man, but retains its original sound in the plural 'women.' 'Bridegroom' means bride'sman. It is a compound of the A. S. words bryd=bride and guma=a man.

II. By the use of suffix forms, as : 'authoress,' 'heroine.' 'Widower' is

apparently formed by adding *er* to the feminine, but this is not exactly the case. In A. S. the masculine was *widurwa* and the feminine *widurwe*. In Old English the endings *a* and *e* were dropped and *widow* was of common gender, finally, however *er* being an A. S. masculine termination was added to distinguish the masculine.

'Seamstress' has double feminine ending composed of the A. S. feminine 'istre' or 'estre,' and the English ending 'ess,' 'seam-str-ess.' 'Mistress' is for 'masteress' the 'er' being contracted and the 'a' modified to 'i.'

'Vixen'=A. S. 'fixen' from 'fix' a fox and the feminine ending 'en' which occurs under various forms in many languages, as : 'regina,' 'czarina.'

III. By the use of words entirely or apparently distinct, as : 'boy,' 'girl'; 'husband,' 'wife'.

'Lady' is partly from the same origin as its corresponding masculine 'lord', the former is from A. S. *hlaf*, a loaf and *digan*, serve, 'hlafdige'; 'lord' is from *hlaf* and 'ord', origin 'hlaforð'. 'Drake' is a corruption of the Scandinavian, *ant rakko*, 'ant' meaning swimmer or duck and 'rakko' ruler, so that drake means the lord of the ducks. It has no etymological connection with its feminine 'duck' which is from *dive*.

5. "What arguments might be used for and against the recognition of the article as a separate part of speech? Tell what you know of the history of *an* and *the*."

The article should not be considered as a separate part of speech, because (1) both *an* and *the* were originally adjectives; (2) they both perform the functions of an adjective according to its definition as a word used with an noun or pronoun to denote some distinguishing attribute of quality, quantity, or relation, belonging to that for which the noun or pronoun stands; (3) the term *article* signifies a *little joint*, a meaning which is vague and meaningless.