

II.

THE SENTENCE.

1. As our thoughts are distinct from each other, so language, which is the *expression* of thought, is naturally divided into distinct portions. Each part or division of language which expresses a complete thought is called a **Sentence**. The original meaning of the word *sentence* was *thought* or *opinion*.

2. Whenever we talk so as to be understood, we talk in sentences.

That mountain is higher than ———,
 I was too late for ———
 The little boy was glad to get ———,
 The pretty girl on the front seat ———,

are *not* sentences, because they do not convey any meaning. By slight additions, what was before meaningless becomes, in each case, a *sentence* or *expression of a complete thought*. Thus,—

That mountain is higher than *Blomidon*.
 I was too late for *school*.
 The little boy was glad to get *his prize*.
 The pretty girl on the front seat *knew her lesson*.

(Repeated exercises should be given at this point, until the fundamental conception of the sentence as a *complete statement* is fully grasped).

III.

SUBJECT AND PREDICATE.

In every sentence we say *something* about *something*. In the sentence "John is a good boy" we say *about* (or *of*) *John* that *he is a good boy*. A sentence, therefore, must consist of two parts. One of these is that *of which something is said*. This is called the **Subject**.

The other part is the *statement made concerning the subject*. This is called the **Predicate**.