

# **A MANUAL OF LANGUAGE LESSONS**

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A Manual of Language Lessons by F. R. Heath

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**F. R. HEATH**

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## GRAMMAR.

"*Grammar*, in its usual sense, is the art of speaking and writing a language correctly."—*R. G. White*.

"Properly speaking, it includes only etymology and syntax."—*W. D. Whitney, of Yale*.

"Of grammar, the essential parts, if not the whole, are etymology and syntax. For orthography relates to the mere arrangement of letters for the arbitrary representation of certain sounds, and prosody to the aesthetic use of language. And, if prosody is a part of grammar, why should the latter not include rhetoric, and even elocution? In fact, grammar was long regarded as including all that concerns the structure and the relations of language; and a grammarian among the ancients was one who was versed, not only in language, but in poetry, history, and rhetoric, and who, generally, lectured or wrote upon those branches of literature. But it seems to me that in the usage of intelligent people the English word *grammar* relates only to the laws which govern the significant forms of words, and the construction of the sentence. Thus, if we find *extraordinary* spelled *igstraunery*, or hear *suggest* pronounced *sujjest*, we do not call these lapses false grammar; but if we hear, "She was *hisa*, but he wasn't *hern*," which violates true etymology, or, "He *done* it *good*," which is incorrect syntax, these we do call false grammar. Etymology, which relates to the significant forms of words, and syntax, the rules of which govern their arrangement, are, then, from our point of view, the great essentials, if not the whole, of grammar."—*R. G. White, Words and their Uses, page 279*.

"Grammar treats of the laws of speech; in the first place of *the word*, and then of the *combinations* of words in speech."—*Maetzner*.

"Grammar concerns the forms of words and their dependent relations in the sentence."—*R. G. White*.

Etymology is "the science of the word" and syntax is "the science of the sentence."

*Etymology* is the branch of grammar that treats of the parts of speech and their inflections.

*Syntax* is the part of grammar that treats of the sentence and its construction.

## SENTENCES.

A *sentence* is "a related group of words containing a subject and a predicate with their modifiers, and expressing a complete thought."

The *subject* of a sentence is that about which something is asserted or affirmed.

The *predicate* of a sentence is that which is affirmed or denied of the subject.

The subject and predicate may assert or declare a thing, forming an *assertive* or *declarative* sentence; as, "He triumphs"; they may inquire about a thing, forming an *interrogative* sentence; as, "Does he triumph?" or they may command or express a desire for a thing, forming an *imperative* sentence; as, "Triumph thou!" or, with the pronoun understood, "Triumph!" The sentence constitutes the subject-matter of grammar, and may be either *simple*, composed of a single subject and predicate; or *combined*, including *compound*, made up of two or more principal sentences, and *complex*, made up of principal and subordinate.—*Standard Dictionary*.

A sentence that forms part of a compound or complex sentence is called a *clause*.

A *clause* is, therefore, "a part of a sentence containing a subject and a predicate," and is distinguished from a *phrase*, which is a part of a sentence not expressing a complete thought. Clauses are either *independent* or *dependent*.

A sentence may contain few words, or many.

Halt!

Time flies.

Where is it?

What a beautiful flower!

Your favor of yesterday came duly to hand.

Please let us hear from you with regard to this matter at your earliest convenience.

"By analyzing the light of the sun by means of a spectroscope, an instrument that splits light up into its component colors, in the same manner as you have seen light split up into all the colors of the rainbow by the glass drops on chandeliers, it has been found that a great number of our metals exist in the sun, not of course in their metallic state, but in the state of vapor, the heat there being so intense that the metals evaporate as water with us does into steam."

Every sentence should begin with a *capital letter*.

At the end of a sentence that asks a question, the *question mark* (?) should be placed.

After sentences or expressions that constitute exclamations, or indicate surprise or strong feeling, the *exclamation point* (!) should be used.

At the end of every sentence that does not require a question mark or an exclamation point there should be placed a dot, called a *period*.

### THE PARTS OF SPEECH.

Words are classified according to their use in the sentence, and are thus divided into eight classes, called *the parts of speech*; namely, *nouns, adjectives, pronouns, verbs, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions* and *interjections*.

1. A *noun* is a word used as the name of a thing, quality, or action existing or conceived by the mind; as, *book, house, city, kindness, diligence, navigation, flight, Philadelphia*.

2. An *adjective* is a word used to limit or qualify a noun; as, *this book; new house; large city; good advice*.

3. A *pronoun* is a word used instead of a noun; as, *I spoke. He came. Who is it?*