

**A GRAMMAR CONTAINING THE
ETYMOLOGY AND SYNTAX OF THE
ENGLISH LANGUAGE. FOR ADVANCED
GRAMMAR GRADES, AND FOR HIGH
SCHOOLS, ACADEMIES, ETC.**

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WILLIAM SWINTON

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FOR ADVANCED GRAMMAR GRADES, AND FOR HIGH SCHOOLS,
ACADEMIES, ETC.

By WILLIAM SWINTON,
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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION.....	1
SECTION I—ETYMOLOGY.....	3
CHAPTER	
I. CLASSIFICATION AND FORMS.....	3
II. THE NOUN.....	6
I. DEFINITION.....	6
II. CLASSES OF NOENS.....	7
III. GRAMMATICAL FORMS OF THE NOUN.....	11
I. NUMBER, 11; II. GENDER, 16; III. CASE, 21; IV. PERSON, 22.	
III. THE PRONOUN.....	28
I. DEFINITION.....	28
II. CLASSIFICATION AND INFLECTION.....	28
I. PERSONAL PRONOUNS, 28; II. RELATIVE PRONOUNS, 31; III. INTERROGATIVE PRONOUNS, 32.	
IV. THE ADJECTIVE.....	35
I. DEFINITION.....	35
II. CLASSIFICATION.....	35
I. LIMITING ADJECTIVES, 35; II. QUALIFYING ADJECTIVES, 40; III. GRAMMATICAL FORMS OF THE ADJECTIVE, 41.	
V. THE VERB.....	48
I. DEFINITION.....	48
II. CLASSIFICATION.....	48
III. VERBALS.....	53
IV. GRAMMATICAL FORMS OF THE VERB.....	53
I. VOICE, 54; II. MOOD, 55; III. TENSE, 57; IV. MOODS WITH TENSES, 57; V. NUMBER AND PERSON, 64; VI. CONJUGATION, 66; CONJUGATION OF THE AUXILIARY VERBS, 67; PARADIGM OF THE REGULAR VERBS, 71; PARADIGM OF THE IRREGULAR VERBS, 74; FORMS OF CONJUGATION, 75; IRREGULAR VERBS, 80.	
VI. THE ADVERB.....	85
DEFINITION, CLASSES, AND INFLECTION.....	85
VII. THE PREPOSITION.....	89
VIII. THE CONJUNCTION.....	93
THE INTERJECTION.....	95
IX. USES AND PARSING OF THE PARTS OF SPEECH.....	98
I. THE NOUN.....	98
II. THE PRONOUN.....	103
III. THE ADJECTIVE.....	113
IV. THE VERB.....	118
V. THE ADVERB.....	123
VI. PREPOSITION, CONJUNCTION, AND INTERJECTION.....	124
METHOD OF ABBREVIATED PARSING.....	127
NOTES ON VARIABLE PARTS OF SPEECH.....	130

CHAPTER		PAGE
	SECTION II.—SYNTAX.....	137
	DEFINITIONS.....	137
	RULES OF SYNTAX.....	140
	I. SUBJECTIVE RELATION.....	142
	II. PREDICATIVE RELATION.....	145
	III. ATTRIBUTIVE RELATION.....	153
	IV. COMPLEMENTARY RELATION.....	166
	V. ADVERBIAL RELATION.....	175
	VI. REPRESENTATIVE RELATION.....	179
	VII. CONNECTIVE RELATION.....	187
	VIII. ABSOLUTE AND INDEPENDENT CONSTRUCTIONS.....	194
	IX. SYNTAX OF VERBS AND VERBALS.....	197

SECTION III.—ANALYSIS..... 204

I. DEFINITIONS AND PRINCIPLES.....	204
I. THE SENTENCE AND ITS ELEMENTS.....	204
II. CLASSES OF SENTENCES.....	209
III. SUBJECT AND PREDICATE.....	212
IV. ADJUNCTS OF SUBJECT AND PREDICATE.....	218
II. ANALYSIS OF THE SIMPLE SENTENCE.....	216
I. THEORY OF THE SIMPLE SENTENCE.....	216
II. DIRECTIONS FOR ANALYSIS.....	216
MODELS FOR ORAL ANALYSIS.....	218
MODELS FOR WRITTEN ANALYSIS.....	220
III. ANALYSIS OF THE COMPLEX SENTENCE.....	223
I. THEORY OF THE COMPLEX SENTENCE.....	223
II. DIRECTIONS FOR ANALYSIS.....	225
MODELS FOR ORAL ANALYSIS.....	226
MODELS FOR WRITTEN ANALYSIS.....	228
IV. ANALYSIS OF THE COMPOUND SENTENCE.....	231
I. THEORY OF THE COMPOUND SENTENCE.....	231
II. DIRECTIONS FOR ANALYSIS.....	232

APPENDIX..... 237

A. THE NOUN.....	237
I. NOTES ON NUMBER.....	237
II. NOTES ON GENDER.....	238
III. NOTES ON CASE.....	239
B. THE PRONOUN.....	240
C. THE VERB.....	242
I. NOTES ON THE PARADIGM.....	242
II. LIST OF IRREGULAR VERBS.....	244
III. NOTES ON THE IRREGULAR VERBS.....	250
IV. ORIGIN OF THE INFINITIVE WITH "TO".....	252

ENGLISH GRAMMAR.

INTRODUCTION.

1. Language is the expression of thought by means of spoken or written words.

2. Grammar is the science that treats of the principles of language.

Some principles are common to all languages, and these principles form the science of general grammar; but as the several languages differ widely, it is necessary to have a special grammar for each. Hence *French grammar*, *German grammar*, *English grammar*, etc.

3. English grammar is the science that treats of the principles of the English language.

Its *use*, or *end*, is to teach the art of speaking and writing the English language correctly.

As a science { Explains the structure
 of the language } = THEORY.

As an art { Lays down rules for its
 correct use } = PRACTICE.

4. Words and Sentences. — Language consists of *words* arranged in *sentences*.

I. A word is a significant sound or combination of sounds. It may be represented by a written character or combination of characters.

II. A sentence is a combination of words expressing a complete thought, and conveying an assertion, a question, a command, or a wish: as, (1) He comes. (2) Does he come? (3) Let him come. (4) O that he would come!

5. Divisions of Grammar. — Language is composed of *sentences*, and sentences are made up of *words*: hence arise the two principal divisions of English grammar: namely, *etymology*—treating of words by themselves; and *syntax*—treating of words combined in sentences.

NOTES.

I. The common division of English grammar has been into four parts—*orthography*, *etymology*, *syntax*, and *prosody*, the offices of which are usually thus defined:

Orthography treats of letters, syllables, separate words, and spelling.

Etymology treats of the different parts of speech, with their derivation and modifications.

Syntax treats of the relation, agreement, government, and arrangement of words in sentences.

Prosody treats of punctuation, utterance, figures, and versification.

II. A strict analysis of language-study considerably narrows the scope of grammar, by assigning to more appropriate places several of the kinds of knowledge vaguely included in grammatical science.

Thus *orthography* (together with "utterance," i. e. *orthoepey*) forms the subject-matter of special manuals of spelling, and is to be learned from these and from the dictionary. *Prosody* is a branch of rhetoric, or English composition. The *derivation of words* (historical etymology) does not properly belong to grammar, but is to be studied in textbooks of etymology, or word-analysis.

III. It thus appears that grammar, in its strict sense, is limited to two departments of language-study; namely, *grammatical etymology*, or accidence, and *syntax*—the former treating of the classification and grammatical forms of words, the latter treating of the principles and usages relating to the combination of words in speech.

SECTION I.

ETYMOLOGY.

CHAPTER I

CLASSIFICATION AND FORMS.

6. Definition.—Etymology is that division of grammar which treats of the *classification* and *grammatical forms* of words. (See § 9.)

7. Parts of Speech.—Words are arranged in classes according to their use in sentences; and these classes, eight in number, are called the *parts of speech*. (“Speech” = *language*.)

8. The parts of speech are—

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1. Noun. | 5. Adverb. |
| 2. Pronoun. | *6. Preposition. |
| 3. Adjective. | 7. Conjunction. |
| 4. Verb. | 8. Interjection. |

9. A grammatical form is a mode of denoting some property belonging to a part of speech.

Thus, *number*, a mode of denoting one or more than one, is a grammatical form of the noun. (*Book—books*.) *Tense*, a mode of denoting time, is a grammatical form of the verb. (*Walk—walked*.) *Comparison*, a mode of denoting degrees of a quality, is a grammatical form of the adjective. (*Long—longer*.)

10. The grammatical forms of the parts of speech are as follows:

1. **Number**—a property of nouns, pronouns, and verbs.
2. **Gender**—a property of nouns and pronouns.
3. **Case**—a property of nouns and pronouns.
4. **Person**—a property of nouns, pronouns, and verbs.
5. **Voice**—a property of verbs.
6. **Mood**—a property of verbs.
7. **Tense**—a property of verbs.
8. **Comparison**—a property of adjectives and adverbs.

11. A grammatical form is variously denoted: namely—

1. By **inflection**, or a change in the ending of a word.
Thus, in *boys*, *s* is an inflection or suffix to denote the grammatical form *number*. So *ed* in *walked* is an inflection to denote the grammatical form *tense*; and *er* in *longer* is an inflection to denote the grammatical form *comparison*.
An *inflected word* is one that has, or may have, a grammatical suffix.*
2. By **radical change**; that is, by the change of a vowel in the root word:† as, *man*, *men*; *write*, *wrote*.
3. By an **auxiliary term**; that is, by the use of a separate helping word joined with the word to be modified in meaning: as *shall* in "I *shall* love," to denote the future tense; *more* in "*more* fortunate," to denote the comparative degree.
4. By **grammatical relation**; that is, by a special use of a word in a sentence. This frequently determines the grammatical form of a word when there is no visible indication of its form.
Thus "boy" in "The *boy* flies his kite" is in what is called the *nominative case*, because it is the subject of the verb "flies;" whereas in "The dog bit the *boy*" it is in the *objective case*, because it is the object of the verb "bit."

* A *grammatical suffix* is to be distinguished from an ordinary suffix; that is, a letter or syllable added to the termination of a word to form a derivative word, as *ful* in *helpful*, *er* in *teacher*. The former merely changes the meaning of the word a little; the latter makes an entirely new word.

† The "root," or "root word," is the primitive word—the word in its simplest form, before any change in it has been made: thus *man*, as contrasted with *men*, is a root word.