

**POPULAR ERRORS IN ENGLISH
GRAMMAR, PARTICULARLY
IN PRONUNCIATION,
FAMILIARLY POINTED OUT**

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Popular Errors in English Grammar, Particularly in Pronunciation, Familiarly Pointed Out by
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EXPLANATION OF THE FRONTISPIECE.

Sedes Busbiana ; or, Dr. Busby's Chair.

THIS Chair, on which are humorously personified the component parts of Grammar, was, with great propriety, presented to the first scholar, and first schoolmaster, of his age.

The difficulties of Grammar, so well known to every learner, are legibly visible in the sour countenance of the head.

Beneath, we see a noun substantive, which, in the language of Grammar, is said "to stand alone, and requires not another word to be joined with it, to shew its signification." The independence of the character is happily expressed in the figure, whose countenance and gesture both declare him self-satisfied and self-sufficient.

On the opposite side, is a noun adjective, which "cannot stand alone, but requires to be joined with a substantive;" admirably represented by a meagre figure, tottering for support towards the substantive, and seeming to exclaim, "He is the independent substantive—I, the scurvy adjective!"—*Pratt's Liberal Opinions, Letter 82nd.*

In the middle is the portrait of the great Dr. Busby, or any Doctor you please, looking up to a mitre, as the reward of his labours, and plausibly ejaculating his "hopes" (*spero.*) It is well known that the Doctor thought the only "*ars logica*," or "art of right reasoning," was a due application of birch: and the sound of the rod, with the sounds which it drew forth, was to him the only "*ars musica*," the "music of the spheres." "Spare the rod, and spoil the child," he could prove upon the authority of Solomon: He chose, therefore, the rod—(observe the *beck ground*) as an emblem of victory over idleness; and, for his motto, "*In hoc signo vinces*," i. e. "By the rod you will conquer:" though, from the cast of the eyes upwards, some interpret these words as having a higher meaning. Words which the classical scholar will remember were first adopted by the Emperor Constantine, on a very different occasion.—See the *Roman History*.

Verbs are said to be active, passive, and neuter; represented, 1st, by a drawcansir of a figure, attacking with all his might and main the posterior of the 2d, or passive figure, who bears it all with the only remark of patience. The 3d figure is neuter, perfectly indifferent about the scene before him, as long as he is unmolested, and therefore sits neuter, well remembering the old rhyme,

"They who in quarrels interpose,
Will often wipe a bloody nose."

Syntax, *Orthography*, *Prosody*, and *Etymology*, are the four principal parts of Grammar, represented by four expressive countenances; all of which, it is supposed, were well-known portraits in their day. It is scarcely necessary to observe how oppositely the character of each is delineated in the features: *Orthography*, which relates to right spelling, determined that no syllable shall escape him, has assumed his spectacles. *Etymology*, "which regards the derivation of words," is literally "*omniscient viris homo*," a man of acute penetration! *Syntax* and *Prosody* are both equally characteristic.

Nedus, ecce tibi! quæ tibi prodidit alumnus,
Quæ græmia vultu Granta, quæ tibi habet.

Behold the end! whence oft the LEARNING grows,
Which THIS counts, or GRANTA holds to be.

••• Translated and explained for the benefit of Country Gentlemen.

READER,

I WISH, particularly, to impress upon thee, that this little book is intended for the use of persons *of limited education only, and not for the scholar.*

Thou wilt observe, that I have not only studied brevity, but have avoided, as far as was consistent with the nature of the work, the use of grammatical terms, and, indeed, every show of system, except in its alphabetical arrangement, which I judged to be the most convenient; being firmly persuaded, that many persons, who would willingly consult it in its present form, would, in another, discard it at once, as a thing beyond the reach of their abilities.

Without detracting in the least from the study of this science, I cannot but mention, that there are many who both write and speak correctly, who have never paid the least attention to it;* and that many more, who pride

* It must at the same time be admitted, that such persons have either read the best authors attentively, or have *mixed in good company.*

themselves upon having received a liberal education, would, if taken by surprise, be found altogether incapable of *parsing** a sentence or two.

As example operates so powerfully,—thou mayest anticipate much good in thine own family by the judicious *distribution* of this manual among those with whom thy children are, perhaps, necessarily associated.

Thy friend,

GEORGE JACKSON.

* To resolve a sentence into the different parts of speech.

There are in English nine sorts of words, or parts of speech, viz.—The Article, the Substantive or Noun, the Adjective, the Pronoun, the Verb, the Adverb, the Preposition, the Conjunction, and the Interjection.—See Murray and Cobbett's Grammars.

The Editors of the *Encyclopædia Edinensis*, under the article 'Education,' give Cobbett's Grammar the preference.

POPULAR ERRORS.



SPELLING EXERCISE.

Scizzars.

Pidgeon.

Perswade.

Beefatake.

A house to lett.

Sallet.

Potatoe.

If you cannot correct the above, you cannot spell well; and I would therefore advise you to procure Guy's Spelling Book.

It is better to SPELL well than to WRITE well; but it is desirable to do both.

OBSERVE HOW THE LETTERS ARE SPELT.

An A		an H	aitch
a B	Bee	an I	
u C	see	a J	jay
a D	.dee	a K	kay
an E		an L	el
an F	ef	an M	em
a G	jee	an N	en

an O		a U	
a P	pee	a V	vee
a Q	cue	a W	double u
an R	ar	an X	eks
an S	ess	a Y	wy
a T	tee	a Z	zed (notizzard.)

Of these, A, E, I, O, U; are called Vowels; the rest are Consonants.

A and An.

We do not say

<i>a hen,</i>	but an M (em)
<i>a hen,</i>	but an N (en)
<i>a hears,</i>	but an S (ess)
<i>a hee,</i>	but an E
<i>a hi,</i>	but an I
<i>a ho,</i>	but an O.

Consult the Alphabet.

A is put only before words that begin with a Consonant, (except in *historical*.) Thus we say,

a horse,	not - - <i>an horse,</i> nor <i>a norse.</i>
a house,	not - - <i>an house,</i> nor <i>a nouse.</i>

H being a Consonant.

But we say,

An hospital, (pronounced <i>ospital</i> .)
An hour, (pro. <i>our</i> .)
An herb, (pro. <i>erb</i> .)
An heir, (pro. <i>are</i> .)

Honour, (pro. *onor.*)
 Hostler, (pro. *ostler.*)
 Humour, (pro. *umour.*)
 Humble, (pro. *umble.*)

Because the *h* is not sounded in the above words.

We place *an* before words that begin with a vowel, except in "university," "useful," &c. (the Vowels are *a, e, i, o, u*, as before noticed :)

As, an ass,	not . . a ass.
an artichoke,	not . . a artichoke, nor a <i>har-</i> <i>tichoke.</i>
an arbour, (a <i>bowar,</i>)	not . . a arbour, nor a <i>har-</i> <i>bour.</i>
	but we say Harbour, a port for shipping.
Axiom, (pro. <i>axshum,</i>)	not . . <i>ax-i-om.</i>
I am not he,	I <i>aynt he</i> , is cockney-like.
Afraid,	not . . <i>afraad</i> , <i>afear'd.</i>
Ask'd, (ask't)	not . . <i>axed</i> , nor <i>ass'd</i> , (this is very low.)
After,	not . . <i>ater.</i>
Argue,	not . . <i>arguffy,</i>
Attacked,	not . . <i>attacked.</i>
Audacious,	not . . <i>howdacious.</i>
Aunt, (pron. <i>ant.</i>)	not . . <i>hant.</i>
Against,	not . . <i>agin.</i>
Make him angry,	not . . <i>anger him.</i>
Apothecary,	not . . <i>pottecary.</i>

As how (is also very low.)

See 'That.'

Every one takes advantage of my youth and

inexperience, not . . . *advantage*.

Answer, not . . . *haasur*.

An Ape, not . . . *a Hape*.

Asparagus, or sparrowgrass.*

What are you at? not . . . *hat*.

'Tis so, as sure as I am
alive, (common & low.)

Boiled, not . . . *byled*.

Bellows, not . . . *bellosses*.

Blasphemous, not . . . *blasphemious*.

Broccoli, not . . . *brockler, brocklow, nor
broccolo*.

She was bled, not . . . *blooded*.

I can't bear it, not . . . *abear it*.

Blow me if I do, } exceedingly low.
Blow him up, }

A blow, not . . . *punch*. See P.

It blew hard, not . . . *it blowed*.

Botheration seize it, (very
vulgar.) See 'Pother.'

* See "Encyclopædia Edinensis."