

**A MANUAL OF
ORTHOGRAPHY AND
ELEMENTARY SOUNDS**

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A Manual of Orthography and Elementary Sounds by Henry R. Pattengill

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A MANUAL
OF
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ELEMENTARY SOUNDS

TENTH EDITION

BY

HENRY R. PATTENGILL

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H. R. PATTENGILL, PUBLISHER
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Correct pronunciation and distinct articulation are absolutely essential to good reading; hence elementary sounds should be studied from the first.

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PREFACE.

A pure and easy pronunciation, a clear and natural articulation are accomplishments well worth diligent and persistent efforts to acquire.

The knowledge of the use of diacritical marks is of great service in reading the language of the dictionary and, very properly, has come to be an essential factor in teaching pupils to read. It is sought in this brief manual to give a compilation of rules, suggestions, and exercises on the subject of elementary sounds and diacritical marks that will prove helpful to teachers and pupils. The rapid and steady sale of the volume indicates that the book served its purpose. The author hopes that the Manual may aid in securing somewhat of a uniformity in teaching and using the proper sounds and their symbols. The lists of words given are enough to afford ample drill to young and old in spelling, pronunciation, and articulation. It is an easy matter to create great interest in this subject among the pupils in school, and may it no longer be truthfully said: "The Americans are noted for the carelessness of their speech."

In the third edition, there were added sixteen pages; and in this, the sixth edition other pages have been added and the work revised to conform to the latest editions of the great lexicons.

H. R. P.

Lansing, August 14, 1888.

" *Nov. 27, 1890.*

" *Dec. 24, 1892.*

" *July 4, 1894.*

" *May 1, 1895.*

Lansing, Nov. 12, 1896.

" *Nov. 15, 1897.*

" *Nov. 12, 1898.*

" *Oct. 23, 1899.*

" *Sept. 15, 1900.*

CHAPTER I.

DEFINITIONS.

Language is the medium for the communication of thought. It is divided into spoken and written language. Spoken language consists of certain elementary sounds combined into words to express thought.

There are many thousand* words in the English language, and but 43 elementary sounds.

An *elementary sound* is one which cannot be divided into two or more distinct and different sounds. The sounds are produced by the organs of the voice and of speech.

The *voice* is produced by the vibration of the air in the larynx, a pipe in the throat; the *organs of the voice* are the larynx, pharynx, trachea, and lungs.

Speech consists of the voice modified by the organs of speech so as to produce certain articulate sounds; the *organs of speech* are the lips, teeth, tongue, and palate.

A *letter* is a character used to represent a sound; the English alphabet contains 26 letters. The alphabet is said to have been invented by the Phœnecians; *aleph* *beth* were the first two letters; hence our word alphabet.

The *power* of a letter is the sound which it represents.

*The number of words in the language is given by recent authorities as 300,000.

The *name* of a letter is what it is called in the alphabet. The names of the letters as now spoken and written are: *a, be, cee, dee, e, eff, gee, aitch, i, jay, kay, ell, em, en, o, pee, kue, ar, ess, tee, u, vee, double-u, ez, wy, zee.*

The letters are divided into *vowels* and *consonants*; the vowels representing pure tones of voice, the consonants representing voice more or less interrupted by the organs of speech. The vowels are *a, e, i, o, u,* and sometimes *w* and *y.* The word *abstemiously* contains the vowels in their proper order.

The elementary sounds are divided into three classes, viz., *vocals* (20), *sub-vocals* (14), and *aspirates* (9).

Vocals or *tonics* are inarticulate sounds produced by the voice but little modified by the organs of speech. The *vocals* are represented by the vowels.

Sub-vocals, sub-tonics or *sonants* are articulate sounds produced by the voice modified by the organs of speech. The *sub-vocals* are represented by consonants.

Aspirates, atonics or *surds* are whispering sounds or breathing; they resemble the consonants in articulation, the sound represented by *h* being the only one which the organs of speech do not aid in pronouncing.

A *mute* is a consonant which does not admit of an escape of breath when the organs of speech are in position to give the sound. The mutes are *b, p, d, t, k, g,* hard, etc.

NOTE.—Do not try to learn lists of letters of the various classes, but learn to distinguish them by their formation. Prepare to give the sound of *b,* for instance, and note the fact that you cannot breathe through the mouth or nose until

you change slightly the position of the organs of speech. In this way distinguish the mutes.

Semi-vowels are those consonants which admit of escape of breath when the organs of speech are in position to sound them. They partake more of the nature of the vowels.

Consonants are also classified according to the organs by which they are formed.

Labials are those in pronouncing which the lips are most used. They are *p, b, wh, v, m*.

Labio-dentals are those in forming which the lower lip touches the upper teeth. They are *f, v*.

Linguals are those in forming which the tongue is most used. They are *d, l, n, r, t* and *y*.

Lingua-dentals are those formed by the tongue and teeth. As *th* sub-vocal and aspirate.

Dentals are those in forming which the teeth are most used. They are *s, z, ch, sh*.

Palatals are those formed near the roof of the mouth. They are *k, q, g* and *c* hard.

Liquids are those whose sound easily unites with that of other letters; as *l, m, n, r*.

Sibilants are those that represent a hissing sound, *s, c, z*.

Gutturals are letters made on the soft palate and back part of the tongue. They are *k, g* hard and *ng*.

Cognates are letters made with the same organs of speech in similar positions. If we prepare to sound *b* we can sound *p* as well, without changing the position of the organs of speech. See table in chapter III.

Substitutes or Equivalent. Letters sometimes take