# ENGLISH COMPOSITION (CERTIFICATE EDITION), FROM THE ENGLISH COURSE, PP. 149-465

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English composition (certificate edition), from the English course, pp. 149-465 by W. H. Low & John Briggs

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### W. H. LOW & JOHN BRIGGS

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## ENGLISH COMPOSITION

(Certificate Edition)

### FROM THE ENGLISH COURSE BY

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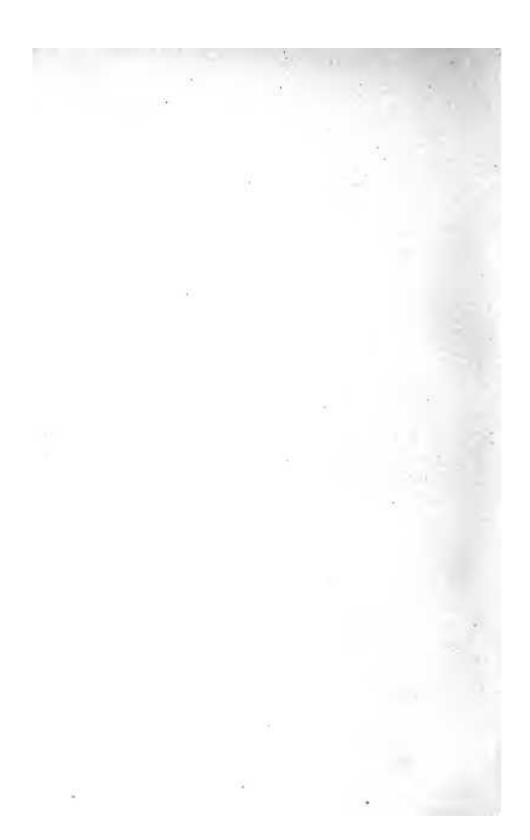




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### ENGLISH COMPOSITION.

### RULES OF SYNTAX MOST COMMONLY BROKEN IN ENGLISH COMPOSITION.

The following are among the points of syntax with

regard to which mistakes are most frequently made:

 Intransitive verbs of incomplete predication require the noun completing the predication to be in the nominative case.

> He became king. He is a man.

(2) The relative pronoun agrees with its antecedent in number and person, but in case it follows the construction of its own clause.

Thou art he who has commanded us.

This is one of the best books that have appeared.

My brother, whom I had not seen for years, came home yesterday.

(3) All transitive verbs and prepositions require their object noun or pronoun to be in the objective case.

Whom is it written by? Tell me whom you saw.

(4) The adjectives this and that agree in number with the nouns which they limit.

> I do not like that kind of game. People of this sort are rare.

(5) The comparative must be used when two things or groups of things are compared, the superlative when more than two are compared. Before a noun qualified by other, or before the pronoun others, the comparative (not the superlative) must be used.

He is the taller of the two.

Mary is the eldest of the three.

Nelson is more famous than any other sailor of his time.

(6) The verb agrees in number with its subject. If the subject be a composite one, in which the parts are connected by conjunctive pronouns, the verb is put in the plural. If they are connected by disjunctive pronouns the verb agrees only with the subject nearest to it, both in person and number. A noun qualified by a phrase beginning with "with," or "as well as," takes the verb in the same number as it would have if unaccompanied.

The King and Queen were present.

Neither you nor I was present.

Neither my brothers nor I am going.

Neither John nor his brothers were present.

The King, with the Lords and Commons, forms the legislature.

(7) Certain verbs, nouns, and adjectives require certain prepositions after them.

I agree with you.

There is no danger of falling.

You need look for no help from that source.

This bears some remote analogy to that.

This construction is formed on the analogy of that,

I differ from you.

Delaine consists of a mixture of cotton and wool.

The art of the orator consists in having something to say and knowing how to say it.

(8) By the rule of "sequence of tenses" a past tense in the principal clause is followed by a past tense in a subordinate clause, a present or future tense by any tense whatever. If the dependent clause contains a proposition which is true generally, the verb may be in the present, in any sequence. In sentences where the subordinate clause denotes purpose, if the verb in the principal clause is present or future, the verb in the dependent clause must be present, if the verb in the principal clause is past, the verb in the dependent clause must be past.

I found out that he was there.

I am sure that he was there.
He will come when I am gone.
We are teld that many hands make light work.
I go that he may come.
I shall go so that he may stop.
I went so that he might stop.

(9) The participle must not be used absolutely in a sentence, without reference to some definite word as the subject of the verbal action implied in its use.

Arriving late, we found the set Arriving late, the gates were gates shut,

(10) Pronouns must not be used before the nouns to which they refer, and the same pronoun must not be used to refer to different persons or sets of persons in the same sentence.

not

wat

The people objected to Caesar's rule because he assumed the dictatorship,

And when they arose early in the morning, behold, they (i.ε. the Syrians) were all dead corpses, The people objected to his rule, because Caesar assumed the dictatorship.

And when they arese early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses.

(11) The relative pronoun must always have some definite antecedent, expressed or understood.

His foot slipped and this not caused him to fall, or his foot slipped, an action which caused him to fall, His foot slipped, which caused him to fall.

(12) That is the defining and not the continuative relative.

not

The University of London, which is now established at South Kensington, has a twofold system of examination,

The University of London, that, etc.

(13) The distributive adjectives and pronouns require any following verb, noun, or pronoun, to be in the singular number.

Each officer in the army and not navy is given a commission,

Every one of them was not going to his home,

Each officer in the army and navy are given a commission.

Every one of them were going to their homes,

(14) Either as a distributive pronoun must be used only to denote one of two alternatives, each may be used of two