

A SHORT ENGLISH GRAMMAR.

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SECTION I.

OF LETTERS.

1. **LETTERS** are either Vowels or Consonants.
2. A Vowel is a letter that may be pronounced alone; as, a, e, i, o, u. A Consonant is a letter that cannot be pronounced without a Vowel; as, b, c, d.
3. A Diphthong is two or more Vowels put together, and pronounced like one; as, au, owe.
4. A Syllable is a Vowel or Diphthong, either single, or pronounced with a Consonant.
5. There are in English twenty-four letters; a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, t, u, v, w, x, y, z.

SECTION II.

OF NOUNS.

1. **THERE** are seven sorts of words; a Noun, a Pronoun, a Verb, a Participle, an Adverb, a Conjunction, and a Preposition.
2. The three former of these are declinable, that is, often vary their terminations.
3. A Noun is the name of a thing.
4. Nouns are either Substantives or Adjectives.
5. A Substantive is a Noun that may stand by itself; as, a man. An Adjective is a Noun that is always joined with a Substantive; as, good.
6. There are three Genders, the Masculine, the Feminine, and the Neuter.
7. But Nouns have no Genders.
8. A Case is the variation of the last syllable.

9. But Nouns in English have no Cases.

10. The Number of Nouns are two: The Singular, which speaks of one thing; as, a stone: The Plural, which speaks of more than one; as, stones.

11. The Plural Number of Nouns is formed by adding s to the Singular; as, a book, books.

12. But in Nouns ending in ch, sh, ss, or x, by adding es; as, a fox, foxes.

13. Nouns ending in f, or fe, change it into ves; as, a wife, wives.

14. Only those ending in oof, ff, rf, and a few others, are regular; as, a roof, roofs.

15. Nouns ending in y, form the Plural in ies; as, a city, cities.

16. Only those ending in a diphthong are regular; as, a boy, boys.

17. A man has in the Plural, men; a woman, women; a child, children; an ox, oxen; a goose, geese; a foot, feet; a tooth, teeth; a mouse, mice; a louse, lice; a die, dice; a penny, pence.

18. All Adjectives are indeclinable, having no variation either of Gender, Case, or Number.

19. Adjectives have three Degrees of Comparison; the Positive, Comparative, and Superlative.

20. The Comparative Degree is formed by adding er to the Positive; the Superlative, by adding est; as, rich, richer, richest.

21. But in the following Adjectives thus:—

Good	better	best
bad	worse	worst
little	less	least
much, many	more	most

SECTION III.

OF PRONOUNS.

1. A PRONOUN is a sort of word which is put for a Noun.

2. There are sixteen: I, thou, he; my or mine; thy or thine; his, her; our, your, their; this, that; what, which, who, whose.

3. My, thy, his, her, our, your, their, this, that, which, what, who, whose, are indeclinable.

4. The other Pronouns are declined thus :—

<i>Singular.</i>		<i>Plural.</i>
	I, me	we, us
5.	Thou, thee	ye, you
6.	He, him, <i>Masculine</i>	} they, them
	She, her, <i>Feminine</i>	
	It, <i>Neuter</i>	

7. Who, whom, is either Singular or Plural.

8. This has in the Plural, these ; that, those.

9. Her, our, your, their, at the end of a sentence, take s ; as, " It is hers."

10. That is often used for who, or which ; as, " The man that spoke," for " who spoke."

11. We say, " Thou, Thee," when we speak to God ; " You," when we speak to men.

12. Pronouns have also three Persons : I, we, are of the First Person ; thou, you, of the Second ; and all the rest of the Third.

SECTION IV.

OF VERBS.

1. A VERB is a sort of word that expresses either doing, and then it is called an Active ; suffering, and then it is called a Passive ; or being, and then it is called a Neuter, Verb.

2. Verbs are not only varied by Numbers and Persons, but also by Moods, Tenses, and Conjugations.

3. There are four Moods : (1.) The Indicative, which shows that a thing is done : (2.) The Imperative, which commands it to be done : (3.) The Subjunctive, which generally follows another Verb, and expresses that a thing may, can, or should be done : And, (4.) The Infinitive, which has neither Number nor Person.

4. There are five Tenses : (1.) The Present Tense, which speaks of the present time : (2.) The Preterimperfect, which speaks of the time not perfectly past : (3.) The Preterperfect,

which speaks of the time perfectly past: (4.) The Preterpluperfect, which speaks of the time that is more than perfectly past: And, (5.) The Future, which speaks of the time to come.

5. A Conjugation is the manner of varying the beginning or ending of Verbs, in their several Moods.

6. There is but one Conjugation in English.

SECTION V.

OF AUXILIARY VERBS.

1. THOSE are called Auxiliary Verbs which are used in forming the Moods and Tenses of all other Verbs.

2. There are two Auxiliary Verbs, "to have," and "to be," beside the Defective ones following:—

3. *Indic. Pres. Sin.* I can, thou canst, he can.

Pl. We can, ye can, they can.

Imp. Sin. I could, thou couldst, he could.

Pl. We could, ye could, they could.

4. *Ind. Pres.* I may, thou mayest, he may, &c.

Imp. I might, thou mightest, he might, &c.

5. *Ind. Pres.* I shall, thou shalt, he shall, &c.

Imp. I should, thou shouldest, he should, &c.

6. *Ind. Pres.* I will, thou wilt, he will, &c.

Imp. I would, thou wouldst, he would, &c.

7. *Ind. Pres. and Imp.* I must, thou must, &c.

8. *Ind. Pres. and Imp.* I ought, thou oughtest, &c.

9. "To have" is conjugated thus:—

INDICATIVE MOOD.

Pres. Sin. I have, thou hast, he has or hath.

Pl. We have, ye have, they have.

Imp. Sin. I had, thou hadst, he had.

Pl. We had, ye had, they had.

Perf. Sin. I have had, thou hast had, he has had.

Pl. We have had, ye have had, they have had.

Preterplu. Sin. I had had, thou hadst had, he had had.

Pl. We had had, ye had had, they had had.

Fut. Sin. I shall or will have, thou shalt or wilt have, he shall or will have.

Pl. We shall or will have, ye shall or will have, they shall or will have.

IMPERATIVE MOOD.

Sin. Have thou. *Pl.* Have ye.

SUBJUNCTIVE MOOD.

Pres. Sin. I may have, thou mayest have, he may have.

Pl. We may have, ye may have, they may have.

Imp. Sin. I might have, thou mightest have, he might have.

Pl. We might have, ye might have, they might have.

Perf. Sin. I may have had, thou mayest have had, he may have had.

Pl. We may have had, ye may have had, they may have had.

Preterplu. Sin. I might have had, thou mightest have had, he might have had.

Pl. We might have had, ye might have had, they might have had.

Fut. Sin. I should have had, thou shouldest have had, he should have had.

Pl. We should have had, ye should have had, they should have had.

INFINITIVE MOOD.

Pres. To have. *Perf.* To have had.

PARTICIPLES.

Active, Having. *Passive,* Had.

10. A Participle is a sort of word that has Numbers, Genders, and Cases like a Noun, and Tenses like a Verb.

11. Some Participles are Active; some Passive.

12. Again: Some are of the Present, and some of the Preterperfect, Tense.

13. "To be" is conjugated thus:—

INDICATIVE MOOD.

Pres. Sin. I am, thou art, he is.

Pl. We are, ye are, they are.

Imp. Sin. I was, thou wast, he was.

Pl. We were, ye were, they were.

Perf. Sin. I have been, thou hast been, he has been.

Pl. We have been, ye have been, they have been.

Preterplu. Sin. I had been, thou hadst been, he had been.

Pl. We had been, ye had been, they had been.

Fut. Sin. I will or shall be, thou wilt or shalt be, he will or shall be.

Pl. We will or shall be, ye will or shall be, they will or shall be.

IMPERATIVE MOOD.

Sin. Be thou. *Pl.* Be ye.

SUBJUNCTIVE MOOD.

Pres. Sin. I may be, thou mayest be, he may be.

Pl. We may be, ye may be, they may be.

Imp. Sin. I were, thou wert, he were ; or, I might be, thou mightest be, he might be.

Pl. We were, ye were, they were ; or, we might be, ye might be, they might be.

Perf. Sin. I may have been, thou mayest have been, he may have been.

Pl. We, ye, they may have been.

Preterplu. Sin. I might have been, thou mightest have been, he might have been.

Pl. We, ye, they might have been.

Fut. Sin. I should have been, thou shouldst have been, he should have been.

Pl. We, ye, they should have been.

INFINITIVE MOOD.

Pres. To be. *Perf.* To have been.

PARTICIPLES.

Active, Being. *Passive, Been.*

14. The old Auxiliary Verb, "To do," is conjugated thus :—

Indic. Pres. Sin. I do, thou doest, he does or doeth.

Pl. We, ye, they do.

Imp. Sin. I did, thou didst, he did.

Pl. We, ye, they did.

PARTICIPLES.

Active, Doing. *Passive, Done.*

SECTION VI.

OF REGULAR VERBS.

A REGULAR Verb is conjugated thus :—

INDICATIVE MOOD.

Pres. Sin. I fear, thou fearest, he feareth or fears.

Pl. We fear, ye fear, they fear.

Imp. Sin. I feared, thou fearedst, he feared.

Pl. We feared, ye feared, they feared.

Perf. Sin. I have feared, thou hast feared, he hath feared.

Pl. We have feared, ye have feared, they have feared.

Preterplu. Sin. I had feared, thou hadst feared, he had feared.

Pl. We had feared, ye had feared, they had feared.

Fut. Sin. I shall or will fear, thou shalt or wilt fear, he shall or will fear.

Pl. We, ye, they shall or will fear.

IMPERATIVE MOOD.

Sin. Fear thou. *Pl.* Fear ye.

SUBJUNCTIVE MOOD.

Pres. Sin. I may fear, thou mayest fear, &c.

Imp. Sin. I might fear, thou mightest fear, &c.

Perf. Sin. I may have feared, &c.

Preterplu. Sin. I might have feared, &c.

Fut. Sin. I should have feared, &c.

INFINITIVE MOOD.

Pres. To fear. *Perf.* To have feared.

PARTICIPLES.

Active, fearing. *Passive,* feared.

The Passive Voice is only the Auxiliary Verb "To be," conjugated throughout with the Passive Participle.

SECTION VII.

OF IRREGULAR VERBS.

1. THE following Verbs form the Imperfect Tense and the Participle Passive irregularly.

2. Where no Participle is set down, it is the same with the Imperfect.

<i>Present</i>	<i>Imperf.</i>	<i>Part. Pass.</i>
Abide	abode	
Bear	bore, bare	borne
Become	became	become
Begin	began	begun
Bend	bent	
Beseech	besought	
Bid	bad	
Bind	bound	
Bite	bit	
Bled	bled	blooded
Blow	blew	blown
Break	broke	broken
Breed	bred	
Bring	brought	
Burn	burnt	
Buy	bought	
Build	built	
Catch	caught	
Chide	chid	
Chuse	chose	chosen
Cleave	clave or clove	cloven
Cling	clung	
Creep	crept	
Deal	dealt	
Die	died	dead
Dig	dug	
Draw	drew	drawn
Drink	drank or drunk	drunken
Drive	drove	driven
Fall	fell	fallen
Feed	fed	

<i>Present</i>	<i>Imperf.</i>	<i>Part. Pass.</i>
Feel	felt	
Fight	fought	
Find	found	
Flee	fled	
Fly	flew	flown
Fling	flung	
Forsake	forsook	forsaken
Freeze	froze	frozen
Get	got	
Give	gave	given
Go	went	gone
Grind	ground	
Grow	grew	grown
Hang	hung	
Hide	hid	
Hold	held	
Keep	kept	
Know	knew	known
Lie	lay	laid
Lead	led	
Leave	left	
Lend	lent	
Lose	lost	
Make	made	
Meet	met	
Rend	rent	
Ring	rung	
Rise	rose	
Run	ran	
See	saw	seen
Seek	sought	
Sell	sold	
Send	sent	
Shake	shook	
Shine	shone	
Shoot	shot	
Shrink	shrank	
Sing	sang or sung	
Sit	sat	
Slay	slew	slain
Sleep	slept	

<i>Present</i>	<i>Imperf.</i>	<i>Part. Pass.</i>
Slide	slid	
Sling	slung	
Slink	slunk	
Smite	smote	smitten
Speak	spoke	spoken
Speed	sped	
Spend	spent	
Spin	spun	
Spring	sprung	
Stand	stood	
Steal	stole	stolen
Stick	stuck	
Stink	stunk	
Stride	strid	
Strike	struck	
String	strung	
Strive	strove	
Swear	swore	sworn
Sweep	swept	
Swim	swum	
Swing	swung	
Take	took	
Teach	taught	
Tear	tore	torn
Tell	told	
Think	thought	
Throw	threw	thrown
Tread	trod	
Wear	wore	worn
Weave	wove	woven
Weep	wept	
Win	won	
Wind	wound	
Work	wrought	
Wring	wrung	
Write	writ or wrote	written

3. A Verb must always be of the same Number and Person with the Noun or Pronoun going before it; as, "I love you." "Christians love one another."

SECTION VIII.

OF ADVERBS, PREPOSITIONS, AND CONJUNCTIONS.

1. AN Adverb is a sort of word which is added to a Verb to perfect, explain, or enlarge its sense.
2. Adverbs are compared like Noun Adjectives.
3. Among these may be reckoned those words expressing some sudden passion, which are commonly called Interjections; as, "ah! oh!"
4. A Preposition is a sort of word which is commonly set before another, or compounded with it; as, "I go to London."
5. A Conjunction is a sort of word which joins words or sentences together; as, and, or.

I cannot but subscribe to the remark of a late eminent writer, that, "in the simplicity of its structure, the English far exceeds all modern tongues;" and, I verily believe, all ancient too; at least, all that I have any acquaintance with; the Greek and Latin in particular.