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# SYNTAX.

The third part of Grammar is Syntax, which treats of the agreement and construction of words in a sentence.

A sentence is an assemblage of words forming a complete sense.

Sentences are of two kinds, simple and compound.

A simple sentence has in it but one subject, and one finite verb; as, "Life is short."

A compound sentence consists of two or more simple sentences connected together: as, "Life is short, and art is long?" "Idleness produces want, vice, and misery?"

A phrase is two or more words aptly put together, making sometimes part of a sentence and sometimes a whole sentence.

The principal parts of a simple sentence are, the subject, the attribute, and

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the object.

The subject is the thing chiefly spoken of; the attribute is the thing or action affirmed, or denied of it; and the object is the thing affected by such action.

The nominative denotes the subject, and usually goes before the verb or attribute; and the word or phrase, denoting the object, follows the verb: as, "A wise man governs his passions." Here, a wise man is the subject; governs the attribute, or thing affirmed; and his passions, the object.

Syntax principally consists of two parts, Concord and Government.

Concord is the agreement which one word has with another, in gender, number, case, or person.

Government is that power which one part of speech has over another, in directing its mood, tense, or case.

### Rule I.

A verb must agree with its nominative

case, in number and person: as, "I learn;" "Thou art improved;" "The birds sing."

### Rule II.

Two or more nouns, etc. in the singular number, joined together by a copulative conjunction, expressed or understood, have verbs, nouns, and pronouns agreeing with them in the plural number: as, "Socrates and Plato were wise: they were the most eminent philosophers of Greece;" "The sun that rolls over our heads, the food that we receive, the rest that we enjoy, daily admonish us of a superior and superintending Power."

### Rule III.

The conjunction disjunctive has an effect contrary to that of the conjunction copulative; for as the verb, noun, or pronoun, is referred to the preceding terms taken separately, it must be in the singular number: as, "Ignorance or negligence has caused this mistake;" "John, or James, or ye,"

seph, intends to accompany me;" "There is,  
in many minds, neither knowledge nor un-  
derstanding."

#### Rule IV.

A noun of multitude, or signifying ma-  
ny, may have a verb or pronoun agreeing  
with it, either of the singular or plural  
number; yet not without regard to the im-  
port of the word, as conveying unity or plu-  
rality of idea: as, "The meeting was lar-  
ge;" "The parliament is dissolved;" "The  
nation is powerful;" "My people do not  
consider: they have not known me;"  
"The multitude eagerly pursue pleasure,  
as their chief good;" "The council were  
divided in their sentiments."

#### Rule V.

Pronouns must always agree with their  
antecedents, and the nouns for which they  
stand, in gender and number: as, "This  
is the friend whom I love;" "That is  
the voice which I hate;" "The king and

the queen had put on their robes;" "The  
moon appears, and she shines, but the light  
is not her own."

The relative is of the same person as  
the antecedent, and the verb agrees with it  
accordingly: as, "Thou who lovest wisdom;"  
"I who speak from experience."

#### Rule VI.

The relative is the nominative case to  
the verb, when nominative comes between  
it and the verb: as, "The master who taught  
us;" "The trees which are planted."

When a nominative comes between the  
relative and the verb, the relative is govern-  
ed by some word in its own member of  
the sentence: as, "He who preserves me, to  
whom I owe my being, whose I am, and  
whom I serve, is eternal."

#### Rule VII.

When the relative is preceded by two  
nominatives of different persons, the rela-  
tive and verb may agree in person with

either, according to the sense: as, "I am the man who command you;" or, "I am the man who commands."

### Rule VIII.

Every adjective, and every adjective pronoun, belongs to a substantive expressed or understood: as, "He is a good, as well as a wise man;" "Few are happy;" that "persons;" "This is a pleasant walk;" that is, "This walk is," etc.

Adjective pronouns must agree, in number, with their substantives: as, "This book, these books; that sort, those sorts; another road, other roads."

### Rule IX.

The article a or an agrees with nouns in the singular number only, individually or collectively: as, "A Christian, an In, fidel, a score, a thousand."

The definite article the may agree with nouns in the singular or plural number: as, "the garden, the houses, the stars."

The articles are often properly omitted: when used they should be justly applied, according to their distinct nature: as, "gold is corrupting;" "The sea is green;" "A lion is bold."

### Rule X.

One substantive governs another signifying a different thing, in the possessive or genitive case: as, "My father's house;" "Man's happiness;" "Virtue's reward."

### Rule XI.

Active verbs govern the objective case: as, "Truth ennobles her;" "She comforts me;" "They support us;" "Virtue rewards her followers."

### Rule XII.

One verb governs another that follows it, or depends upon it, in the infinitive mood: as, "Cease to do evil: learn to do well." "We should be prepared to render an account of our actions."

The preposition to, though generally used before the latter verb, is sometimes properly

omitted: as, "I heard him say it;" instead of, "to say it."

#### Rule XIII.

In the use of words and phrases which, in point of time, relate to each other, a due regard to that relation should be observed. Instead of saying, "The Lord hath given, and the Lord hath taken away; we should say, "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away." Instead of, "I remember the family more than twenty years;" it should be, "I have remembered the family more than twenty years."

#### Rule XIV.

Participles have the same government as the verbs from which they are derived: as, "I am weary with hearing him;" "She is instructing us;" "The tutor is admonishing Charles?"

#### Rule XV.

Adverbs, though they have no government of case, tense, etc. require an appropri-

ate situation in the sentence, viz. for the most part before adjectives, after verbs active or neuter, and frequently between the auxiliary and the verb: as, "He made a very sensible discourse: he spoke unaffectedly and forcibly; and was attentively heard by the whole assembly."

#### Rule XVI.

Two negatives, in English, destroy one another, or are equivalent to an affirmative: as, "Nor did they not perceive him;" that is, "they did perceive him;" "His language, though inelegant, is not ungrammatical;" that is, "it is grammatical."

#### Rule XVII.

Prepositions govern the objective case: as, "I have heard a good character of her;" "From him that is needy, turn not away;" "A word to the wise is sufficient for them;" "We may be good and happy without riches" 三  
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#### Rule XVIII.

Conjunctions connect the same moods and tenses of verbs, and cases of nouns and pronouns: as, "Candour is to be approved and practised;" "If thou sincerely desire, and earnestly pursue virtue, she will assuredly be found by thee, and prove a rich reward;" "The master taught her and me to write;" "He and she were schoolfellows;"

#### Rule XIX.

Some conjunctions require the indicative, some the subjunctive mood, after them. It is a general rule that when something contingent or doubtful is implied, the subjunctive ought to be used: as, "If I were to write, he would not regard it;" "He will not be pardoned, unless he repents."

Conjunctions that are of a positive and absolute nature require the indicative mood. "As virtue advances so vice recedes;" "He is healthy because he is temperate."

#### Rule XX.

When the qualities of different things are compared, the latter noun or pronoun is not governed by the conjunction than or as, but agrees with the verb, or is governed by the verb or the preposition, expressed or understood: as, "Thou art wiser than I," that is, "than I am." "They loved him more than me;" i. e. "more than they loved me;" The sentiment is well expressed by Plato, but much better by Solomon than him; that is, "than by him."

#### Rule XXI.

To avoid disagreeable repetitions, and to express our ideas in few words, an ellipsis, or omission of some words, is frequently admitted. Instead of saying, "He was a learned man, he was a wise man, and he was a good man;" we use the ellipsis, and say, "he was a learned, wise and good man."

When the omission of words would obscure the sentence, weaken its force, or be attended with an impropriety, they must be expressed. In the sentence, "We are apt to love who love us," the word them should be supplied. "A beautiful field and trees;"

is not proper language. It should be,  
"Beautiful fields and trees; or," "A  
beautiful field and fine trees."

### Rule XXII.

All the parts of a sentence should cor-  
respond to each other: a regular and depen-  
dent construction, throughout, should be  
carefully preserved. The following senten-  
ce is therefore inaccurate: "He was more be-  
loved, but not so much admired, as Cinthio."  
It should be, "He was more beloved than  
Cinthio, but not so much admired."

### Prosody.

Prosody consists of two parts: the former  
teaches the true pronunciation of words com-  
prising accent, quantity, emphasis, pause  
and tone; and the latter, the laws of versi-  
fication.

#### Accent.

Accent is the laying of a peculiar stress.

of the voice on a certain letter or syllable  
in a word, that it may be better heard  
than the rest, or distinguished from them:  
as, in the word presûme, the stress of the voi-  
ce must be on the letter i, and second syllab-  
le sûme, which takes the accent.

#### Quantity.

The quantity of a syllable is that time  
which is occupied in pronouncing it. It is  
considered as long or short.

A vowel or syllable is long, when the  
accent is on the vowel; which occasions it to  
be slowly joined, in pronunciation, to the  
following letters: as "F<sup>all</sup>, b<sup>ale</sup>, m<sup>ood</sup>, h<sup>ouse</sup>,  
f<sup>eature</sup>."

A syllable is short, when the accent is  
on the consonant; which occasions the vowel to  
be quickly joined to the succeeding letter: as,  
"a<sup>nt</sup>, b<sup>on</sup>'net, h<sup>un</sup>'ger."

A long syllable requires double the time  
of a short one in pronouncing it: thus, "Ma-  
te" and "Note" should be pronounced as slo-  
wly again as "Mat" and "Not."



### Emphasis.

By emphasis is meant a stronger and fuller sound of voice, by which we design to lay particular stress, and to show how it affects the rest of the sentence. Sometimes the emphatic word must be distinguished by a particular tone of voice, as well as by a greater stress.

### Pauses.

Pauses or rests, in speaking and reading, are a total cessation of the voice, during a perceptible, and in many cases, a measurable space of time.

### Tones.

Tones are different both from emphasis and pauses; consisting in the modulation of the voice, the notes or variations of sound which we employ, in the expression of our sentiments.

### Versification.

Versification is the arrangement of a certain number and variety of syllables ac-

ording to certain laws.

Rhyme is the correspondence of the last sound of one verse, to the last sound or syllable of another.

### Punctuation.

It is the art of dividing a written composition into sentences, or parts of sentences, by points or stops, for the purpose of marking the different pauses, which the sense and an accurate pronunciation require.

The Comma represents the shortest pause; the Semicolon, a pause double that of the comma; the Colon, double that of the semicolon; and the Period, double that of the colon.

The points are marked in the following manner:

The Comma,

The Colon:

The Semicolon;

The Period.

#### Comma.

The Comma usually separates those parts

of a sentence, which, though very closely connected in sense, require a pause between them; as, "I remember, with gratitude, his love and services." "Charles is beloved, esteemed, and respected."

### Semicolon.

The Semicolon is used for dividing a compound sentence into two or more parts, not so closely connected as those which are separated by a comma, nor yet so little dependent on each other, as those which are distinguished by a colon: as, "Straws swim on the surface; but pearls lie at the bottom."

### Colon.

The Colon is used to divide a sentence into two or more parts, less connected than those which are separated by a semicolon; but not so independent as separate, distinct sentences: as, "Do not flatter yourselves with the hope of perfect happiness: there is no such thing in the world."

### Period.

When a sentence is complete and independent, and not connected in construction with the following sentence, it is marked with a period: as "Fear God. Honour the King. Have charity towards all men."

Besides the points which mark the pauses in discourse, there are others that denote a different modulation of voice, in correspondence to the sense. These are,

The interrogative point, ?

The Exclamation point, !

The Parenthesis, ( )

as, "Are you sincere?"

"How excellent is a grateful heart!"

"Know then this truth (enough for man to know)

"Virtue alone is happiness below."

The following characters are also frequently used in composition.

An Apostrophe, marked thus ' : as, "tho' judg'd."

A Caret, marked thus ^ : as, "I diligent?"

A Hyphen, which is thus marked - : as, "Lap-dog, to-morrow."

The Acute Accent, marked thus ' : as, "Fancy." The Grave Accent, thus ` : as, "Favour?"

The proper mark to distinguish a long syllable, is this - : as "Foxy." and a short one, this ~ : as "Folly." This last mark is called a Breve

Dieresis, thus marked ¨, shows that two vowels form separate syllables, as, "Creator."

A Section is thus marked §.

A Paragraph thus ¶.

A Quotation has two inverted commas at the beginning, and two direct ones at the end, of a phrase or passage: as,

"The proper study of mankind is man."

Crotchets or Brackets serve to enclose a particular word or sentence. They are marked thus [].

A Index or Hand ☞ points out a remarkable passage.

A brace } unites three poetical lines; or connects a number of words, in prose, with one common term.

An Asterisk or little star \* directs the

reader to some note in the margin.

An Ellipsis is thus marked — : as, "K — g," for King.

An Obelisk, which is marked thus †, and parallels thus ||, together with the letters of the alphabet, and figures, are used as references to the margin.

### Capitals.

The following words should begin with capitals.

1st, The first word of every book, chapter, letter, paragraph, etc.

2d, The first word after a period, and frequently after the notes of interrogation and exclamation.

3d, The names of the Deity: as, God, Jehovah, the supreme Being, etc.

4th, Proper names of persons, places, ships, etc.

5th, Adjectives derived from the proper names of places: as, Grecian, Roman, English, etc.

6th, The first word of an example, and of a quotation in a direct form: as, "Always remember this ancient maxim: 'Know thyself'"

7th, The first word of every line in poet,  
ry.

8th, The pronoun I, and the interjection O!

9th, Words of particular importance: as, the Reformation, the Restoration, the Revolution.

## APPENDIX.

### Exercises in parsing.

#### Chap. I.

Exercises in parsing, as it respects Etymology alone.

#### Sect. I.

Etymological parsing Table.

What part of speech?

1. An article. What kind? Why?
2. A substantive. Common or proper? What Gender? Number? Case? Why?
3. An adjective. What degree of comparison? To what does it belong? Why an adjective?
4. A pronoun. What kind? Person? Gender? Number? Case? Why?
5. A verb. What kind? Mood? Tense? Number? Person? Why? If a participle, why? Active or passive?
6. An adverb. Why is it an adverb?
7. A preposition. Why a preposition?

8. A conjunction. What kind? Why?  
 9. An interjection. Why?

Sect. 2. Specimen of Etymological Parsing  
 Hope animates us.

Hope is a common substantive, of the neuter gender the third person, in the singular number, and the nominative case (Decline the Substantive) Animates is a regular verb active, indicative mood, present tense, third person singular. (Repeat the present tense, the imperfect tense, and the perfect participle; and sometimes conjugate the verb entirely.) Us is a personal pronoun, first person plural, and in the objective case. (Decline the pronoun.)

A peaceful mind is virtue's reward.

A is the indefinite article. Peaceful is an adjective. (Repeat the degrees of comparison.) Mind is a common substantive, of the neuter gender, the third person, in the singular number and the nominative case. (Decline the substantive.) Is is an irregular verb neuter, indicative mood, pre-

sent tense, and the third person singular. (Repeat the present tense, the imperfect tense, and the participle; and occasionally conjugate the verb entirely.) Virtue's is a common substantive, of the third person in the singular number, and the possessive case. (Decline the substantive.) Reward is a common substantive, of the third person, in the singular number, and the nominative case.

Chap. II.

Exercises in Parsing, as it respects both Etymology and Syntax.

Sect. I.

Syntactical Parsing Table.

- Article. Why is it the definite article?  
 Why the indefinite?  
 Why omitted? Why repeated?
- Substantive. Why is it in the possessive case?  
 Why in the objective case?  
 Why in apposition?  
 Why is the apostrophic s omitted?
- Adjective. What is its substantive?

Pronoun.

Why in the singular, why in the plural number?  
Why in the comparative degree, etc.?  
Why placed after its substantive?  
Why omitted? why repeated?  
What is its antecedent?  
Why is it in the singular, why in the plural number?  
Why of the masculine, why of the feminine, why of the neuter gender?  
Why of the first, of the second, or of the third person?  
Why is it the nominative case?  
Why the possessive? why the objective?  
Why omitted? why repeated?  
What is its nominative case?  
What case does it govern?  
Why is it in the singular? why in the plural number?  
Why in the first person, etc.?  
Why is it the infinitive mood?  
Why in the subjunctive, etc.?

Verb.

Why in this particular tense?  
What relation has it to another verb, in point of time?  
Why do participles sometimes govern the objective case?  
Why is the verb omitted? why repeated?

Adverb.

What is its proper situation?  
Why is the double negative used?  
Why rejected?

Preposition.

What case does it govern?  
Which is the word governed?  
Why this preposition?

Conjunction.

Why omitted? why repeated?  
What moods, tenses, or cases, does it connect? And why?  
What mood does it require?  
Why omitted? why repeated?

Interjection.

Why does the nominative case follow it? why the objective?  
Why omitted? why repeated?

Sect. II.

Specimen of Syntactical Parsing.

vice degrades us.

Vice is a common substantive, of the neuter gender, the third person, in the singular number, and the nominative case. Degrades is a regular verb active, indicative mood, present tense third person singular, agreeing with its nominative "vice," according to rule I., which says, (here repeat the rule.) Us is a personal pronoun, first person plural, in the objective case, and governed by the active verb "degrades," agreeably to rule XI., which says, etc.

He who lives virtuously prepares for all events.

He is a personal pronoun of the third person, singular number, and masculine gender. who is a relative pronoun which has for its antecedent "he," with which it agrees in gender and number, according to rule V., which says, etc. Lives is a regular verb neuter, indicative mood, present tense, third person singular agreeing with its nominative, "who,"

according to rule VI., which says, etc. Virtuously is an adverb of quality. Prepares a regular verb neuter, indicative mood, present tense, third person singular, agreeing with its nominative, "he." For is a preposition. All is an adjective pronoun, of the indefinite kind, the plural number, and belongs to its substantive, "events," with which it agrees, according to rule VIII., which says, etc. Events is a common substantive of the third person, in the plural number, and the objective case, governed by the preposition "for," according to rule XVII., which says, etc.

If folly entice thee, reject its allurements.

If is a copulative conjunction. Folly is a common substantive of the third person, in the singular number, and the nominative case. Entice is a regular verb active, subjunctive mood, present tense, third person singular, and is governed by the conjunction "if," according to rule XIX., which says, etc. Thee is a personal pronoun, of the second person

singular in the objective case, governed by the active verb "entice," agreeable to rule XI., which says, etc. Reject is a regular active verb imperative mood, second person singular, and agrees with its nominative case, "thou," implied. Its is a personal pronoun, third person, singular number, and of the neuter gender, to agree with its substantive "jolly," according to rule V., which says, etc. It is in the possessive case, governed by the noun "allurements," agreeably to rule X., which says, etc. Allurements is a common substantive, of the neuter gender, the third person, in the plural number, and the objective case governed by the verb "reject" according to rule XI., which says, etc.

### Exercises in syntax.

#### rule I.

Fifty pounds of wheat contains forty pounds of flour.

What avails the best sentiments, if persons do not live suitably to them?

Thou should love thy neighbour as sincerely, as thou loves thyself.

#### rule II.

Idleness and ignorance is the parent of many vices.

Patience and diligence, like faith, removes mountains.

What signifies the counsel and care of preceptors, when youth think they have no need of assistance?

#### rule III.

Man's happiness or misery are, in a great measure, put into his own hands.

Man is not such a machine as a clock or a watch, which move merely as they are moved.

Speaking impatiently to servants or any thing that betrays inattention or ill-humour, are certainly criminal.

#### rule IV.

The British Parliament are composed of King, Lords, and Commons

A great number do not always argue strength.



The council was not unanimous, and it separated without coming to any determination.

rule V.

They which seek wisdom will certainly find her.

I do not think that any person should incur censure, for being tender of their reputation.

Thou who has been a witness of the fact, can give an account of it.

rule VI.

If he will not hear his best friend, whom shall be sent to admonish him.

The persons, who conscience and virtue support, may smite at the caprices of fortune.

From the character of those who you associate with, your own will be estimated.

rule VII.

Thou art the friend that hast often relieved me, and that has not deserted me now in the time of peculiar need.

I perceive that thou art a pupil who possesses bright parts, but who hast cultivated

them but little.

rule VIII.

These kind of indulgences soften and injure the mind.

Instead of improving yourselves, you have been playing this two hours.

Those sort of favours did real injury, under the appearance of kindness.

rule IX.

The fire, the air, the earth, and the water, are four elements of the philosophers.

We are placed here under a trial of our virtue.

The profligate man is seldom or never found to be, the good husband, the good father, or the beneficent neighbour.

rule X.

Thy ancestors virtue is not thine.

Thy fathers offence will not condemn thee.

A mothers tenderness and a fathers care, are nature gifts for mans advantage.

A mans manner's frequently influence his fortune.

rule XI.

Who have I reason to love so much as this friend of my youth?

The man who he raised from obscurity is dead.

He and they we know, but who art thou?

rule XII.

It is better to live on a little, than outlive a great deal.

You ought not to walk too hastily.

I have seen some young persons to conduct themselves very discreetly.

rule XIII.

The next new year's day, I shall be at school three years.

From the little conversation I had with him, he appeared, to have been a man of letters.

It would have given me great satisfaction, to relieve him from that distressed situation.

rule XIV.

Esteeming themselves wise, they became fools.

Suspecting not only ye, but they also, I was studious to avoid all intercourse.

From having exposed himself too freely in different climates, he entirely lost his health.

rule XV.

He was pleasing not often, because he was vain.

William nobly acted, though he was un- successful.

We may happily live though our possessions be small.

rule XVI.

Be honest, nor take no shape nor semblance of disguise.

There cannot be nothing more insignificant than vanity.

The measure is so exceptionable, that we cannot by no means permit it.

rule XVII.

We are all accountable creatures, each for his self.

Does that boy know who he speaks to? who does he offer such language to?

It was not he that they were so angry with.

rule XVIII.

My brother and him are tolerable grammarians.

Did he not tell thee his fault, and entreated thee to forgive him?

Professing regard, and to act differently, mark a base mind.

rule XIX.

Though he urges me yet more earnestly, I shall not comply, unless he advances more forcible reasons.

She disapproved the measure, because it were very improper.

Though the fact be extraordinary, it certainly did happen.

rule XX.

The business was much better executed by his brother than he.

They are much greater gainers than me by this unexpected event.

They know how to write as well as him; but he is a much better grammarian than them.

rule XXI.

These counsels were the dictates of virtue, and the dictates of true honour.

We must guard against either too great severity, or facility of manners.

Verily, there is a reward for the righteous! There is a God that judgeth in the earth.

By these happy labours, they who sow and reap will rejoice together.

rule XXII.

He is more bold, and active, but not so wise and studious as his companion.

Sincerity is as valuable, and even more valuable, than knowledge.

Neither has he, nor any other persons, suspected so much dissimulation.

Several alterations and additions have been made to the work.

No person was ever so perplexed, or sustained the mortifications, as he has done to-day.

Exercises in punctuation.

Comma.

The tutor by instruction and discipline lays the foundation of the pupil's future honour.

Self-conceit, presumption and obstinacy

Hast the prospect of many a youth.

Deliberate slowly execute promptly.

To live soberly righteously and piously comprehends the whole of our duty.

The path of piety and virtue pursued with a firm and constant spirit will assuredly lead to happiness.

Continue my dear child to make virtue thy principal study.

Peace of mind being secured we may smile at misfortunes.

He who is a stranger to industry may possess but he cannot enjoy.

Beware of those rash and dangerous connexions which may afterwards load thee with dishonour.

#### Semicolon.

The path of truth is a plain and a safe path that of falsehood is a perplexing maze.

Modesty is one of the chief ornaments of youth and has ever been esteemed a presage of rising merit.

Heaven is the region of gentleness and friendship hell of fierceness and animosity.

#### Colon.

Often is the smile of gaiety assumed whilst the heart aches within though folly may laugh guilt will sting.

There is no mortal truly wise and restless at the same time wisdom is the repose of minds.

#### Period.

We ruin the happiness of life when we attempt to raise it too high a tolerable and comfortable state is that we can propose to ourselves on earth peace and contentment not bliss nor transport are the full portion of man perfect joy is reserved for heaven.

#### Interrogation and exclamation.

To lie down on the pillow after a day spent in temperance in beneficence and in piety how sweet it is.

We wait till to-morrow to be happy alas why not to-day shall we be younger are we sure we shall be healthier will our passions become feebler and our love of the world less.

The end.



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