

accordingly been the aim and constant desire of the Editor to lay a foundation for mutual esteem and respect, and strengthen the bonds of an enduring intercourse between the people of his own and his adopted country, by furnishing to each the means of becoming better acquainted with that great exponent of a nation's interior life which is found in its permanent literature. The hope, on the one hand, that his labors might lead the descendants of the Anglo-Saxon race to a more intimate knowledge and appreciation of the immortal works of Cervantes and his worthy compeers, as they exist in pure Castilian, and, on the other, that they might also be instrumental in giving to the Spanish mind a renewed and quickened desire to become more intimately acquainted with the rich and varied stores of English and American literature and science—this hope has been sufficient to convert what would otherwise have been intolerable drudgery into a useful and ennobling occupation.

As the Editor has been guided in his labors, for the most part, by his own limited attainments, he has reason to fear, in a work composed of so great a variety of articles upon so extensive a diversity of matters, that he has not always succeeded in avoiding errors. Should such be found, he has no desire that they should be concealed, but will feel thankful rather to all who may assist him to correct them, for the benefit of the public, whose true interests, and no other motive, have compelled him to undertake his laborious and unappreciated task.

Quid est suavius quam bene rem gerere bono pullico?—PLAUT.

NEW-YORK, March, 1852.

M. V. C.

A SYNOPSIS

OF THE SPANISH OR CASTILIAN LANGUAGE.

THE PARTS OF SPEECH are: the Article, the Noun (substantive and adjective), the Pronoun, the Verb, the Participle, the Adverb, the Preposition, the Conjunction, and the Interjection.

THE DEFINITE ARTICLE.

Masculine, sing. *The*, *El*: pl. *The*, *Los*.
Feminine, “ “ *La*: “ *Las*.

When the article *el* comes after *de* (of or from), or *á* (to), the *e* is suppressed and they are thus written; of the, *del*, to the, *al*, instead of *de el*, *á el*. No apostrophe ‘ is used in Spanish.

1. *Aqua*, water; *aguila*, eagle, &c., though feminine, take the masculine article; but only in the singular, and when they are immediately preceded by it.—*Ollendorff*, pp. 285, 460.

2. Common nouns taken in a general sense in English, require the definite article in Spanish: as, Man is mortal, *El hombre es mortal*. Charity is the first of virtues, *La caridad es la primera de las virtudes*. But when the sense is indeterminate, they do not admit it: as, Give him bread, *Dale pan*.

3. Before nouns of measure, weight, or number, the English indefinite article is rendered into Spanish by the definite, and frequently omitted; as, He paid six dollars a barrel, *El pagó á cinco pesos el barril*, or *cinco pesos barril*.

4. The English definite and indefinite articles before ordinal numbers preceded by proper names, nouns in apposition, national nouns, as well as those signifying dignity, profession, trade, &c., of persons, and in exclamations, are omitted in Spanish: as, Charles the Fifth, *Carlos quinto*; Madrid the capital of Spain, *Madrid capital de España*; He is an American, *El es Americano*; She is a milliner, *Ella es modista*; What a pity! *¡ Que lástima!*—*Ollendorff*, p. 462.

THE INDEFINITE ARTICLE.

Masculine, sing. *A* or *an*, *Un*. Feminine, sing. *A* or *an*, *Una*. The plural *unos* (masculine), and *unas* (feminine), are translated into English by the pronoun *some*: as, a man, *un hombre*; some men, *unos hombres*.

5. The English indefinite article coming between an adjective or a pronoun and a noun, generally is not translated; but when it is emphatical it is placed before the adjective; as, So beautiful a woman, *Tan hermosa mujer*, or *Una mujer tan hermosa*. Such a man, *Tal hombre*, or *Un tal hombre*.

THE NOUN SUBSTANTIVE.

Spanish Nouns have Gender, Number, and Case.

GENDER.

It is masculine or feminine. Every he, or male animal, is of the masculine gender; every she, or female, is of the feminine. For the particular manner to be observed about the gender of some nouns, see *Ollendorff*, p. 421.

6. The names of inanimate objects, or of things ending in *a*, *ad*, *ion* (*bre*, when it signifies quality), are for the most part feminine; and those terminating in *e*, *i*, *o*, or *u*, are generally masculine. For the exceptions see *Ollendorff*, p. 423.

7. Common nouns ending in *o*, change *o* into *a* to form the feminine; as, son, *hijo*, daughter, *hija*. Those terminating in *an*, *on*, or *or*, add *a* for the feminine; as, a man loiterer, *un holgazán*; a woman loiterer, *una holgazana*; patron, *patrón*; patroness, *patrona*; shepherd, *pastor*; shepherdess, *pastora*.

8. There are some nouns that express the difference of gender by a different word or termination; as, father, *padre*; mother, *madre*; poet, *poeta*; poetess, *poetisa*.—*Ollendorff*, pages 246, 247.

NUMBER.

Singular and Plural.

9. Nouns ending in a short, or unaccented vowel form the plural by adding *s* to the singular; as, boy, *muchacho*; boys, *muchachos*.

10. Nouns terminating in a long, or accented vowel, or in any consonant, or in *y*, add *es* to form the plural; as, *rubí*, *rubies*; *rubíes*; captain, *capitán*; captains, *capitanes*; ox, *buéy*; oxen, *buéyes*. Nouns terminating in *z*, change it into *c*, or retain it, and add *es*; as, judge, *juez*; judges, *jueces*, or *juezes*. The first is most commonly used. *Papá*, *mamá*, *café*, &c., are exceptions.—*Ollendorff*, p. 420. Consult the same page for the nouns used only in the singular, or in the plural termination.

CASE.

11. The *Nominative* case expresses the subject of the verb; as, The man gives, *El hombre da*.

12. The *Objective* case direct points out the immediate object of the action of the verb; as, The man gives alms, *El hombre da limosna*.

13. The *Objective* case indirect, or complement, indicates the term, or end of the action expressed by the verb; as, The man gives alms to the poor, *El hombre da limosna á los pobres*.

14. When the object direct of an active transitive verb is a person, a proper or personified noun, it must be preceded by the preposition *á*; as, A man must

love man, *El hombre debe amar al hombre*; Isabella conquered Granada, *Isabel conquistó á Granada*; The miser loves no other God but his money, *El avaro no ama otro Dios que á su dinero*.

AUGMENTATIVE AND DIMINUTIVE NOUNS.

15. *Augmentative nouns* are those that increase the extent of their signification by adding *on*, *oté*, or *azó* to the masculine nouns, and *ona*, *ota*, or *aza* to the feminine, suppressing their final letter, should it be *a*, *e*, *o*, or *e*; as, "un muchacho," "un muchachón" (a big boy); "una muchacha" (a girl), "una muchachona" (a big girl).

16. The termination *azó* frequently signifies the blow or injury caused by the object to which it is added; as, *tatígo* (whip), *un latigazo* (a very large whip; a stroke with a whip).

17. *Diminutive nouns* are formed by adding *ito*, *illo*, *ico*, or *uelo* for the masculine, and *ita*, *illa*, *ica*, or *uela* for the feminine, suppressing the final letter if it be *a*, *o*, or *e*; as, "un muchacho" (a boy), *un muchachito*, *muchachillo*, or *muchachuelo* (a little boy); "una muchacha" (a girl), *una muchachita*, *muchachilla*, or *muchachuela* (a little girl).

18. The terminations *ito*, *ita*, &c., added to Christian names, or those that express relationship, indicate love, affection, and regard towards the object; thus, "*hermanita*" (dear sister); "*Juanito*" (esteemed John), &c.

THE NOUN ADJECTIVE.

19. In Spanish the *Adjective* must agree with its noun, in *Gender* and *Number*; as, "un hombre rico" (a rich man), "una mujer rica" (a rich woman); "hombres ricos" (rich men), "mujeres ricas" (rich women).

GENDER OF ADJECTIVES.

20. Adjectives ending in *o* are masculine, and change it into *a* to form the feminine; as, *rico*, *rica* (rich). Adjectives ending in *on* or *an* add *a* for the feminine; as, *gritón*, *gritona* (clamorous); *haragán*, *haraganá* (idle). Those ending in any other letter are common to both genders; as, "un hombre prudente" (a prudent man), "una mujer prudente" (a prudent woman).

Exception.—Adjectives ending in a consonant, and derived from the names of countries, add *a* to form their feminine; as, *Español*, *Española* (Spanish); *Inglés*, *Inglesa* (English); *Andaluz*, *Andaluza* (Andalusian).

NUMBER.

21. Adjectives form their plural according to the rules set forth for nouns; as, *blanco*, *blancos* (white); *turqui*, *turquies* (deep blue); *natural*, *naturales* (natural); *feliz*, *felices* (happy).

DEGREES OF SIGNIFICATION.

Adjectives have three degrees of signification, the positive, the comparative, and the superlative.

Comparatives.

Comparatives may be considered under the three divisions of the comparative of equality, the comparative of superiority, and the comparative of inferiority.

The comparative of equality with adjectives is formed with *tan . . . como* (as, so . . . as); as, "El es tan rico como ella" (He is as rich as she); "Ella no es tan hermosa como su hermana" (She is not so handsome as her sister).

The comparative of equality with nouns is formed with *tanto*, *tanta . . . como* (as much, so much . . . as); *tantos*, *tantas . . . como* (as many, so many . . . as); as, "Ella tiene tanto dinero como él" (She has as much money as he); "El tiene tantas casas como su hermano" (He has as many houses as his brother).

In the comparative of equality with verbs, *cuanto* is sometimes substituted for *como*; as, "Tanto leo quanto escribo" (I read as much as I write).

The comparative of superiority with adjectives is formed with *mas . . . que* (more, or the termination *er . . . than*); as, "El es mas rico que ella" (He is richer than she); "El honor es mas precioso que las riquezas" (Honor is more precious than riches).

Before nouns of number, *more than* is rendered by *mas de*; as, "Ellos gastaron mas de quinientos pesos" (They spent more than five hundred dollars). But if

the phrase be negative, *mas que* is used; as, "No tengo mas que dos libras" (I have no more than two pounds).

The more . . . the more, with an intervening verb, is rendered by *cuanto mas . . . mas*, or *cuanto mas . . . tanto mas*; as, "Cuanto mas estudia, tanto mas aprende" (The more he studies, the more he learns).

The comparative of inferiority is formed with *menos . . . que* (less . . . than); as, "La plata es menos útil que el hierro" (Silver is less useful than iron).

Before nouns of number, *less than* is translated by *menos de*; as, "Necesito menos de tres reales" (I need less than three shillings).

The less . . . the less, with an intervening verb, is rendered by *cuanto menos . . . tanto menos*; as, "Cuanto menos trabaja, tanto menos gana" (The less he works, the less he gains).

SUPERLATIVES.

English superlatives ending in *est*, or formed by *most*, are rendered by prefixing the definite article to the Spanish comparative; as, "El mas sabio" (the wisest); "la mas ingrata" (the most ungrateful).

Superlatives in English with *very* are formed in Spanish by prefixing *muy* to the adjective, or by affixing it to the termination *ísimo*; as, "Muy hábil or habilísimo" (very skilful); "muy fácil or facilísimo" (very easy).

Irregular Comparatives and Superlatives.

Poss.	Comp.	Super.
Bueno,	mejor,	óptimo.
Malo,	peor,	pésimo.
Grande,	mayor,	máximo.
Pequeño,	menor,	mínimo.
Alto,	superior,	supremo.
Bajo,	inferior,	infímo.
Mucho,	mas,	
Poco,	menos,	

Ollendorff, page 111.

PRONOUNS.

PERSONAL PRONOUNS.

I, yo.	We, nosotros, nosotras.
Me, me.	Us, nos, nos.
Me, mi.	Us, nosotros, nosotras.
With me, conmigo.	With us, con nosotros, as.

Thou, tú.	You, vosotros, vosotras.
Thee, te.	You, os, os.
Thee, ti.	You, vosotros, vosotras.
With thee, contigo.	With you, con vosotros, as.

You, usted, (V.)	You, ustedes, (VV.)
You, á usted, le se.	You, á VV. los, las, se.
You, á V. le, se; á él, ella, si.	You, á VV. les, se; á ellos, ellas, si.
With you, con V. or consigo.	With you, con VV. or consigo.

He or it, él.	They, ellos.
Ham or it, le, se; él, si.	Them, los, se; ellos, si.
Ham or it, le, se; él, si.	Them, les, se; ellos, si.
With him, it, con él, consigo.	With them, con ellos, consigo.

She or it, ella.	They, ellas.
Her or it, la, se; ella, si.	Them, las, se; ellas, si.
Her or it, la, se; ella, si.	Them, les, se; ellas, si.
With her, it, con ella, consigo.	With them, con ellas, consigo.

Mi, ti, si, are always preceded by prepositions.

Me, te, se, le, los, la, las, les, are governed by verbs and never placed after prepositions.

POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS CONJUNCTIVE.

My, mi, mis.	His, su, sus.	Its, su, sus.
Thy, tu, tus.	Her, su, sus.	Their, su, sus.

Your, with reference to *Usted* or *Ustedes*, su, sus.

These pronouns agree in number with the noun that follows them; as, He sold his horses (*el vendió sus caballos*); they fulfilled their promise (*ellos cumplieron su promesa*).

POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS ABSOLUTE.

Mine, mio, mios.	His, suo, suyos.	Its, suo, suyos.
mía, mis.	suya, suyas.	suya, suyas.
Thine, tuyos, tuyas.	Her, suo, suyos.	Theirs, suo, suyos.

OF THE SPANISH LANGUAGE.

Our, nuestro, nuestros. *Your*, vuestro, vuestros. *Your*, de Usted, nuestra, nuestras. *vuestra, vuestras*, de Ustedes. *Your*, with reference to *Usted*, is also translated *suyo*, *suyos*, *suya*, *suyas*, or *su*, *sus* . . . de V. or VV.

RELATIVE AND INTERROGATIVE PRONOUNS.

Who, which, *que, quién, quienes*. *What, that, que*. *Which, what, cuál, cuales*; *also*, *el cual, los cuales, la cual, las cuales*. *Whose, cuyo, cuya, cuya, cuyas*; *also*, *de quien, de cual, &c.*

DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUNS.

This, este, "esta.	These, estos, "estas.	That, aquél.	Those, aquellos.
That, ese, "esa.	Those, esos, "esas.	This, esto.	That, aquello.

INDEFINITE PRONOUNS.

One, uno.	Such, tal.
Each, cada.	Something, algo.
Nobody, "nadie.	Nothing, nada.
Somebody, alguien.	Each one, cada cual.
Anybody, "alguien.	Each other, uno y otro.
Any, some, "alguna.	One another, uno á otro.
Some one, "alguien.	Either, uno ó otro.
Somebody, "alguien.	Neither, ni uno ni otro.
Whichever, cualquiera.	Every one, cada uno.
Whomsoever, quienquiera.	Everybody, todo mundo.
Both, "ambos.	Every thing, todo.
Both, "ambos.	All, every, ambos á dos.

VERBS.

All Spanish verbs are classed into *three conjugations*. Verbs ending in *ar* belong to the *first*; those in *er*, to the *second*; and those in *ir*, to the *third*.

A TABLE

OF THE TERMINATIONS OF ALL THE REGULAR VERBS.

The numbers in the margin refer to the Conjugation, those at the head of the columns, to the Persons.

INFINITIVE MOOD.

1. Present, ar. Gerund, ando.	Perf. or Passive Part. ado.
2. " er. " iendo.	" " " ido.
3. " ir. " iendo.	" " " ido.

INDICATIVE MOOD.

Present.	
Singular.	Plural.
1. o, as, a:	amos, aís, an.
2. o, es, e:	emos, eís, en.
3. o, es, e:	imos, is, en.

Imperfect.

1. aba, abas, aba:	ábamos, ábais, aban.

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