

The plural *others* is only used when apart from the noun to which it refers, whether expressed or understood: as, "When you have perused these papers, I will send you the *others*." "He pleases some, but he disgusts *others*." When this pronoun is joined to nouns, either singular or plural, it has no variation: as, "the other man," "the other men."

The following phrases may serve to exemplify the indefinite pronouns. "*Some* of you are wise and good;" "A few of them were idle, the *others* industrious;" "Neither is there *any* that is unexceptionable;" "One ought to know *one's* own mind;" "They were *all* present;" "*Such* is the state of man, that he is never at rest;" "*Some* are happy, while *others* are miserable."

The word *another* is composed of the indefinite article prefixed to the word *other*.

*None* is used in both numbers: as, "*None* is so deaf as he *that* will not hear;" "None of those are equal to these." It seems originally to have signified, according to its derivation, *not one*, and therefore to have had no plural; but there is good authority for the use of it in the plural number: as, "*None* that go unto her return again." Prov. ii. 19. "Terms of peace were *none* vouchsaf'd." MILTON. "None of them are varied to express the gender." "None of them have different endings for the numbers." LOWTH'S *Introduction*. "None of their Productions are extant." BLAIR.

We have endeavoured to explain the nature of the adjective pronouns, and to distinguish and arrange them intelligibly: but it is difficult, perhaps impracticable, to define and divide them in a manner perfectly unexceptionable. Some of them, in particular, may seem to require a different arrangement. We presume, however, that, for every useful purpose, the present classification is sufficiently correct. All the pronouns, except the personal and relative, may indeed, in a general view of them, be considered as *definitive* pronouns, because they define or ascertain the extent of the common name, or general term, to which they refer, or are

joined; but as each class of them does this, more or less exactly, or in a manner peculiar to itself, a division adapted to this circumstance appears to be suitable to the nature of things, and the understanding of learners.

It is the opinion of some respectable grammarians, that the words *this*, *that*, *any*, *some*, *such*, *his*, *their*, *our*, &c. are pronouns, when they are used separately from the nouns to which they relate; but that, when they are joined to those nouns, they are not to be considered as belonging to this species of words; because, in this association, they rather ascertain a substantive, than supply the place of one. They assert that, in the phrases, "give me *that*," "*this* is John's" and "*such* were *some* of you," the words in italics are pronouns; but that, in the following phrases, they are not pronouns; "*this* book is instructive," "*some* boys are ingenious," "*my* health is declining," "*our* hearts are deceitful," &c. Other grammarians think, that all these words are pure adjectives; and that none of them can properly be called pronouns; as the genuine pronoun stand by itself, without the aid of a noun expressed or understood. They are of opinion, that in the expressions, "Give me *that*;" "*this* is John's," &c., the noun is always understood, and must be supplied in the mind of the reader; as, "Give me *that* book;" "*this* book is John's;" "and *such* persons were *some* persons amongst you."

Some writers are of opinion, that the pronouns should be classed into *substantive* and *adjective* pronouns. Under the former, they include the personal and the relative; under the latter, all the others. But this division, though a neat one, does not appear to be accurate. All the relative pronouns will not range under the substantive head.—We have distributed these parts of grammar, in the mode which we think most correct and intelligible: but, for the information of students, and to direct their inquiries on the subject, we state the different opinions of several judicious grammarians. See the Octavo Grammar on these points.



## CHAPTER VI.

## Of Verbs.

SECTION I. *Of the nature of Verbs in general.*

A VERB is a word which signifies to BE, to DO, or to SUFFER; as, "I am, I rule, I am ruled."

Verbs are of three kinds; ACTIVE, PASSIVE, and NEUTER. They are also divided into REGULAR, IRREGULAR, and DEFECTIVE.

A Verb Active expresses an action, and necessarily implies an agent, and an object acted upon: as, to love; I love Penelope."

A Verb Passive expresses a passion or a suffering, or the receiving of an action; and necessarily implies an object acted upon, and an agent by which it is acted upon: as, to be loved; "Penelope is loved by me."

A Verb Neuter expresses neither action nor passion, but being, or a state of being: as, "I am, I sleep, I sit\*."

The verb active is also called *transitive*, because the ac-

\* Verbs have been distinguished by some writers, into the following kinds.  
1st. *Active-transitive*, or those which denote an action that passed from the agent to some object: as, "Caesar conquered Pompey."  
2d. *Active-intransitive*, or those which express that kind of action, which has no effect upon any thing beyond the agent himself: as, "Caesar walked."  
3d. *Passive*, or those which express, not action, but passion, whether pleasing or painful: as, "Portia was loved; Pompey was conquered."  
4th. *Neuter*, or those which express an attribute that consists neither in action nor passion: as, "Caesar stood."

This appears to be an orderly arrangement. But if the class of *active-intransitive* verbs were admitted, it would rather perplex than assist the learner: for the difference between verbs active and neuter, as transitive and intransitive, is easy and obvious; but the difference between verbs absolutely neuter and intransitively active, is not always clear. It is, indeed, often very difficult to be ascertained.

tion passes over to the object, or has an effect upon some other thing: as, "The tutor instructs his pupils;" "I esteem the man."

Verbs neuter may properly be denominated *intransitives*, because the effect is confined within the subject, and does not pass over to any object: as, "I sit, he lives, they sleep."

Some of the verbs that are usually ranked among neuters, make a near approach to the nature of a verb active; but they may be distinguished from it by their being intransitive: as, to run, to walk, to fly, &c. The rest are more obviously neuter, and more clearly expressive of a middle state between action and passion: as, to stand, to lie, to sleep, &c.

In English, many verbs are used both in an active and a neuter signification, the construction only determining of which kind they are: as, to flatten, signifying to make even or level, is a verb active; but when it signifies to grow dull or insipid, it is a verb neuter.

A neuter verb, by the addition of a preposition, may become a compound active verb. *To smile* is a neuter verb: it cannot, therefore, be followed by an objective case, nor be construed as a passive verb. We cannot say, *she smiled him*, or *he was smiled*. But *to smile on*, being a compound active verb, we properly say, *she smiled on him*; *he was smiled on* by fortune in every undertaking.

Auxiliary, or helping Verbs, are those by the help of which the English verbs are principally conjugated. They are, *do, be, have, shall, will, may, can*, with their variations; and *let* and *must*, which have no variation\*.

In our definition of the verb, as a part of speech which signifies *to be, to do, or to suffer*, &c. we have included

\* *Let*, as a principal verb, has *tetteth* and *letteth*; but as a helping verb it admits of no variation.



every thing, either expressly or by necessary consequence, that is essential to its nature, and nothing that is not essential to it. This definition is warranted by the authority of Dr. Lowth, and of many other respectable writers on grammar. There are, however, some grammarians, who consider *assertion* as the essence of the verb. But, as the participle and the infinitive, if included in it, would prove insuperable objections to their scheme, they have, without hesitation, denied the former a place in the verb, and declared the latter to be merely an abstract noun. This appears to be going rather too far in support of an hypothesis. It seems to be incumbent on these grammarians, to reject also the imperative mood. What part of speech would they make the verbs in the following sentence? "Depart instantly: improve your time: forgive us our sins." Will it be said, that the verbs in these phrases are assertions

In reply to these questions, it has been said, that "Depart instantly," is an expression equivalent to, "I desire you to depart instantly;" and that as the latter phrase implies affirmation or assertion, so does the former. But, supposing the phrases to be exactly alike in sense, the reasoning is not conclusive. 1st. In the latter phrase, the only part implying affirmation, is, "I desire." The words "to depart," are in the infinitive mood, and contain no assertion: they affirm nothing. 2d. The position is not tenable, that "Equivalence in sense implies similarity in grammatical nature." It proves too much, and therefore nothing. This mode of reasoning would confound the acknowledged grammatical distinction of words. A pronoun, on this principle, may be proved to be a noun; a noun, a verb; an adverb, a noun and preposition; the superlative degree, the comparative; the imperative mood, the indicative; the future tense, the present; and so on: because they may respectively be resolved into similar meanings. Thus, in the sentence, "I desire you to depart," the words *to depart*, may be called a noun, because they are equivalent in sense to the noun *departure*, in the

following sentence, "I desire your departure." The words "Depart instantly," may be proved to be, not the imperative mood with an adverb, but the indicative and infinitive, with a noun and preposition; for they are equivalent to "I desire you to depart in an instant." The *superlative* degree in this sentence, "Of all acquirements virtue is the most valuable," may pass for the *comparative*, because it conveys the same sentiment as, "Virtue is more valuable than every other acquirement."

We shall not pursue this subject any further, as we think the reader must be satisfied, that only the word *desire*, in the equivalent sentence, implies affirmation; and that two phrases may be equivalent, in point of sense, though, in their grammatical nature, they may be essentially different.

To verbs belong **NUMBER, PERSON, MOOD, and TENSE.**

#### SECTION. 2. *Of Number and Person.*

Verbs have two numbers, the Singular and the Plural: as, "I run, we run," etc.

In each number there are three persons; as,

	Singular.	Plural.
<i>First Person.</i>	I love.	We love.
<i>Second person.</i>	Thou lovest.	Ye or you love.
<i>Third person.</i>	He loves.	They love.

Thus the verb, in some parts of it, varies its endings, to express, or agree with, different persons of the same number: as, "I love, thou lovest; he loveth, or loves:" and also to express different numbers of the same person: as, "thou lovest, ye love; he loveth, they love." In the plural number of the verb, there is no variation of ending to express the different persons; and the verb, in the three persons plural, is the same as it is in the first person singular. Yet this scanty provision of terminations is sufficient for all the purposes of discourse, and no ambiguity arises from it: the verb being always attended, either with the noun express



ing the subject acting or acted upon, or with the pronoun representing it. For this reason, the plural termination in *en*, *they loven*, *they weren*, formerly in use, was laid aside as unnecessary, and has long been obsolete.

### SECTION 3. *Of Moods and Participles.*

Mood is a particular form or state of the verb, shewing the manner in which the being, action, or passion, is represented.

The nature of a mood may be more intelligibly explained to the scholar, by observing, that it consists in the change or influence which the verb undergoes, to signify various intentions of the mind, and various modifications and circumstances of action: which explanation, if compared with the following account and uses of the different moods, will be found to agree with and illustrate them.

There are five moods of verbs, the INDICATIVE, the IMPERATIVE, the POTENTIAL, the SUBJUNCTIVE, and the INFINITIVE.

The Indicative Mood simply indicates or declares a thing: as, "He loves, he is loved:" or it asks a question: as, "Does he love?" "Is he loved?"

The Imperative Mood is used for commanding, exhorting, entreating, or permitting: as, "Depart thou; mind ye; let us stay; go in peace."

Though this mood derives its name from its intimation of command, it is used on occasions of a very opposite nature, even in the humblest supplications of an inferior being to one who is infinitely his superior: as, "Give us this day our daily bread: and forgive us our trespasses."

The Potential Mood implies possibility or liberty, power, will, or obligation: as, "It may rain; he may go or stay; I can ride; he would walk; they should learn."

The Subjunctive Mood represents a thing as contingent, or uncertain; as under a condition, motive, wish, supposition, etc.; and is preceded by a conjunction, expressed or understood, and attended by another verb, as, "I will respect him, *though* he chide me;" "Were he good, he would be happy;" that is, "*if* he were good."—See pages 201, 202. See also FIFTH edition of the OCTAVO GRAMMAR, p. 113.

The Infinitive Mood expresses a thing in a general and unlimited manner, without any distinction of number or person; as, "to act, to speak, to be feared."

The participle is a certain form of the verb, and derives its name from its participating, not only of the properties of a verb, but also of those of an adjective; as, "I am desirous of *knowing* him;" "*Admired* and *applauded*, he became vain;" "*Having finished* his work, he submitted it," etc.

There are three participles, the Present or Active, the Perfect or Passive, and the Compound Perfect: as, "loving, loved, having loved."—See p. 102.

Agreeably to the general practice of grammarians, we have represented the present participle, as active; and the past, as passive: but they are not uniformly so: the present is sometimes passive; and the past is frequently active. Thus "The youth *was consuming* by a slow malady;" "The Indian *was burning* by the cruelty of his enemies;" appear to be instances of the present participle being used passively. "He *has instructed* me;" "I *have gratefully repaid* his kindness;" are examples of the past participle being applied in an active sense. We may also observe, that the present participle is sometimes associated with the past and future tenses of the



verb; and the past participle connected with the present and future tenses.—The most unexceptionable distinction which grammarians make between the participles, is, that the one points to the continuation of the action, passion, or state, denoted by the verb; and the other, to the completion of it. Thus, the present participle signifies *imperfect* action, or action begun and not ended: as, “*I am writing a letter.*” The past participle signifies action *perfected* or finished: as, “*I have written a letter;*” “*The letter is written.\**”

The participle is distinguished from the adjective, by the former's expressing the idea of time, and the latter's denoting only a quality. The phrases, “*loving to give* as well as to receive,” “*moving in haste,*” “*heated with liquor,*” contain participles giving the idea of time, but the epithets contained in the expressions, “*a loving child,*” “*a moving spectacle,*” “*a heated imagination,*” mark simply the qualities referred to, without any regard to time; and may properly be called participial adjectives.

Participles not only convey the notion of time; but they also signify actions, and govern the cases of nouns and pronouns, in the same manner as verbs do; and therefore should be comprehended in the general name of verbs. That they are mere modes of the verb, is manifest, if our definition of a verb be admitted: for they signify being, doing, or suffering, with the designation of time superadded. But if the essence of the verb be made to consist in affirmation or assertion, not only the participle will be excluded from its place in the verb, but the infinitive itself also; which certain ancient grammarians of great authority held to be alone the genuine verb, simple and unconnected with persons and circumstances.

The following phrases, even when considered in themselves, show that participles include the idea of time: “*The letter being written, or having been written;*” “*Charles being writing, having written, or having been writing.*” But when arranged in an entire sentence, which they must be to

\* When this participle is joined to the verb to *have*, it is called *perfect*; when it is joined to the verb to *be*, or understood with *it*, it is denominated *passive*.

make a complete sense, they show it still more evidently: as, “*Charles having written the letter, sealed and despatched it.*”

—The participle does indeed associate with different tenses of the verb: as, “*I am writing,*” “*I was writing,*” “*I shall be writing:*” but this forms no just objection to its denoting time. If the time of it is often relative time, this circumstance, far from disproving, supports our position\*. See *Observations under Rule 13 of Syntax*.

Participles sometimes perform the office of substantives, and are used as such; as in the following instances: “*The beginning;*” “*a good understanding;*” “*excellent writing;*” “*The chancellor's being attached to the king secured his crown:*” “*The general's having failed in this enterprise occasioned his disgrace;*” “*John's having been writing a long time had wearied him.*”

That the words in italics of the three latter examples, perform the office of substantives, and may be considered as such, will be evident, if we reflect, that the first of them has exactly the same meaning and construction as, “*The chancellor's attachment to the king secured his crown;*” and that the other examples will bear a similar construction. The words, *being attached*, govern the word *chancellor's* in the possessive case, in the one instance, as clearly as *attachment* governs it in that case, in the other: and it is only substantives, or words and phrases which operate as substantives, that govern the genitive or possessive case.

The following sentence is not precisely the same as the above, either in sense or construction, though, except the genitive case, the words are the same; “*The chancellor, being attached to the king, secured his crown.*” In the former, the words, *being attached*, form the nominative case to the verb, and are stated as the cause of the effect; in the latter, they are not the nominative case, and make only a circumstance to

\* From the very nature of time, an action may be *present now*, it may *have been present formerly*, or it may *be present at some future period*—yet who ever supposed, that the present of the indicative denotes no time?



*chancellor*, which is the proper nominative. It may not be improper to add another form of this sentence, by which the learner may better understand the peculiar nature and form of each of these modes of expression: "The chancellor being attached to the king, his crown was secured." This constitutes what is properly called, the Case Absolute.

#### SECTION 4. *Remarks on the Potential Mood.*

THAT the Potential Mood should be separated from the subjunctive, is evident, from the intricacy and confusion which are produced by their being blended together, and from the distinct nature of the two moods; the former of which may be expressed without any condition, supposition, &c. as will appear from the following instances: "They *might* have done better;" "We *may* always act uprightly;" "He was generous, and *would* not take revenge;" "We *should* resist the allurements of vice;" "I *could* formerly indulge myself in things, of which I *cannot* now think but with pain."

Some grammarians have supposed that the Potential Mood, as distinguished above from the Subjunctive, coincides with the Indicative. But as the latter "simply indicates or declares a thing," it is manifest that the former, which modifies the declaration, and introduces an idea materially distinct from it, must be considerably different. "I *can* walk," "I *should* walk," appear to be so essentially distinct from the simplicity of "I walk," "I walked," as to warrant a correspondent distinction of moods. The Imperative and Infinitive Moods, which are allowed to retain their rank, do not appear to contain such strong marks of discrimination from the Indicative, as are found in the Potential Mood.

There are other writers on this subject, who exclude the Potential Mood from their division, because it is formed, not by varying the principal verb, but by means of the auxiliary verbs *may*, *can*, *might*, *could*, *would*, &c.: but if we recollect, that moods are used "to signify various

intentions of the mind, and various modifications and circumstances of action," we shall perceive that those auxiliaries, far from interfering with this design, do, in the clearest manner, support and exemplify it. On the reason alleged by these writers, the greater part of the Indicative Mood must also be excluded; as but a small part of it is conjugated without auxiliaries. The Subjunctive too will fare no better; since it so nearly resembles the Indicative, and is formed by means of conjunctions, expressed or understood, which do not more effectually show the varied intentions of the mind, than the auxiliaries do which are used to form the Potential Mood.

Some writers have given our moods a much greater extent, than we have assigned to them. They assert that the English language may be said, without any great impropriety, to have as many moods as it has auxiliary verbs; and they allege, in support of their opinion, that the compound expressions which they help to form, point out those various dispositions and actions, which, in other languages, are expressed by moods. This would be to multiply the moods without advantage. It is, however, certain, that the conjugation or variation of verbs, in the English language, is effected, almost entirely, by the means of auxiliaries. We must, therefore, accommodate ourselves to this circumstance; and do that by their assistance, which has been done in the learned languages (a few instances to the contrary excepted), in another manner, namely, by varying the form of the verb itself. At the same time, it is necessary to set proper bounds to this business so as not to occasion obscurity and perplexity, when we mean to be simple and perspicuous. Instead, therefore, of making a separate mood for every auxiliary verb, and introducing moods *Interrogative*, *Optative*, *Promissive*, *Hortative*, *Precativè*, etc. we have exhibited such only as are obviously distinct; and which, whilst they are calculated to unfold and display the subject intelligibly to the learner seem to be sufficient, and not more than sufficient, to answer all the purposes for which moods were introduced.



From Grammarians who form their ideas, and make their decisions, respecting this part of English Grammar, on the principles and construction of languages, which, in these points, do not suit the peculiar nature of our own, but differ considerably from it, we may naturally expect grammatical schemes that are not very perspicuous, nor perfectly consistent, and which will tend more to perplex than inform the learner. See pages 84—86. 102—104. 108—111. 201—203.

SECTION 5. *Of the Tenses.*

TENSE, being the distinction of time, might seem to admit only of the present, past, and future; but to mark it more accurately, it is made to consist of six variations, viz. the PRESENT, the IMPERFECT, the PERFECT, the PLUPERFECT, and the FIRST and SECOND FUTURE TENSES.

The Present Tense represents an action or event, as passing at the time in which it is mentioned: as, "I rule; I am ruled; I think; I fear."

The present tense likewise expresses a character, quality, &c. at present existing: as, "He is an able man;" "She is an amiable woman." It is also used in speaking of actions continued, with occasional intermissions, to the present time: as, "He frequently rides;" "He walks out every morning;" "He goes into the country every summer." We sometimes apply this tense to persons long since dead: as, "Seneca reasons and moralizes well;" "Job speaks feelingly of his afflictions."

The present tense, preceded by the words, *when, before, after, as soon as, &c.*, is sometimes used to point out the relative time of a future action: as, "When he arrives he will hear the news;" "He will hear the news *before* he arrives, or *as soon as* he arrives, or, at farthest, *soon after* he arrives," "The more she *improves*, the more amiable she will be." "To-morrow *I proceed* for Paris."

In animated historical narrations, this tense is sometimes

substituted for the imperfect tense: as, "He *enters* the territory of the peaceable inhabitants; he *fights* and *conquers*, *takes* an immense booty, which he *divides* amongst his soldiers, and *returns* home to enjoy an empty triumph."

The Imperfect Tense represents the action or event, either as past and finished, or as remaining unfinished at a certain time past: as, "I loved her for her modesty and virtue;" "They were travelling post when he met them."

The Perfect Tense not only refers to what is past, but also conveys an allusion to the present time: as, "I have finished my letter;" "I have seen the person that was recommended to me."

In the former example, it is signified that the finishing of the letter, though past, was at a period immediately, or very nearly, preceding the present time. In the latter instance, it is uncertain whether the person mentioned was seen by the speaker, a long or short time before. The meaning is, "I have seen him some time in the course of a period which includes, or comes to, the present time." When the particular time of any occurrence is specified, as prior to the present time, this tense is not used: for it would be improper to say, "I *have seen* him yesterday;" or, "I *have finished* my work last week." In these cases the imperfect is necessary: as, "I *saw* him yesterday;" "I *finished* my work last week." But when we speak indefinitely of any thing past, as happening or not happening in the day, year, or age, in which we mention it, the perfect must be employed: as, "I *have been* there this morning;" "I *have travelled* much this year:" "We *have escaped* many dangers through life." In referring, however, to such a division of the day as is past, before the time of our speaking, we use the imperfect: as, "They *came* home early this morning;" "He *was* with them at three o'clock this afternoon."

The perfect tense, and the imperfect tense, both denote a thing that is past; but the former denotes it in such a man-



ner, that there is still actually remaining some part of the time to slide away, wherein we declare the thing has been done; whereas the imperfect denotes the thing or action past, in such a manner, that nothing remains of that time in which it was done. If we speak of the present century, we say, "Philosophers *have made* great discoveries in the present century;" but if we speak of the last century, we say, "Philosophers *made* great discoveries in the last century." "He *has been* much afflicted this year;" "I *have* this week *read* the king's proclamation;" "I *have heard* great news this morning;" in these instances, "He *has been*," "I *have read*," and "*heard*," denote things that are past; but they occurred in this year, in this week, and to-day; and still there remains a part of this year, week and day, whereof I speak.

In general, the perfect tense may be applied wherever the action is connected with the present time, by the actual existence, either of the author, or of the work, though it may have been performed many centuries ago; but if neither the author nor the work now remains, it cannot be used. We may say, "Cicero *has written* orations;" but we cannot say, "Cicero *has written* poems;" because the orations are in being, but the poems are lost. Speaking of priests in general, we may say, "They *have* in all ages *claimed* great powers;" because the general order of the priesthood still exists: but if we speak of the Druids, or any particular order of priests, which does not now exist, we cannot use this tense. We cannot say, "The Druid priests *have claimed* great powers;" but must say, "The Druid priests *claimed* great powers;" because that order is now totally extinct. See PICKBURN on the *English verb*; and FIFTH edition of the *Octavo Grammar*, p. 113.

The Pluperfect Tense represents a thing, not only as past, but also as prior to some other point of time specified in the sentence: as, "I had finished my letter before he arrived."

The First Future Tense represents the action as

yet to come, either with or without respect to the precise time: as, "The sun will rise to-morrow;" "I shall see them again."

The Second Future intimates that the action will be fully accomplished, at or before the time of another future action or event: as, "I shall have dined at one o'clock;" "The two houses will have finished their business, when the king comes to prorogue them\*."

It is to be observed, that in the subjunctive mood, the event being spoken of under a condition or supposition, or in the form of a wish, and therefore as doubtful and contingent, the verb itself in the present, and the auxiliary both of the present and past imperfect times, often carry with them somewhat of a future sense: as, "If he come to-morrow, I may speak to him;" "If he should, or would come to-morrow, I might, would, could, or should speak to him." Observe also, that the auxiliaries *should*, *would*, and *were*, in the imperfect times, are used to express the present and future as well as the past: as, "It is my desire, that he should, or would, come now, or to-morrow;" as well as, "It was my desire, that he should or would come yesterday." "If I were hungry, I would eat." So that, in this mood, the precise time of the verb is very much determined, by the nature and drift of the sentence.

The present, past, and future tenses, may be used either *definitely* or *indefinitely*, both with respect to *time* and *action*. When they denote customs or habits, and not individual acts, they are applied indefinitely: as, "Virtue *promotes* happiness;" "The old Romans *governed* by benefits more than by fear;" "I *shall* hereafter *employ* my time more usefully." In these examples, the words, *promotes*, *governed*, and *shall employ*, are used indefinitely, both in regard to action and time; for they are not confined to individual actions, nor to any precise points of present, past, or future

\* See an account of the *simple* and *compound* tenses, at page 100.



time. When they are applied to signify particular actions, and to ascertain the precise points of time to which they are confined, they are used definitely; as in the following instances. "My brother *is writing*;" "He *built* the house last summer, but did not *inhabit* it till yesterday." "He *will write* another letter to-morrow."

The different tenses also represent an action as *complete* or *perfect*, or as *incomplete* or *imperfect*. In the phrases, "I am writing," "I was writing," "I shall be writing," imperfect, unfinished actions are signified. But the following examples, "I wrote," "I have written," "I had written," "I shall have written," all denote complete perfect action.

From the preceding representation of the different tenses, it appears, that each of them has its distinct and peculiar province; and that though some of them may sometimes be used promiscuously, or substituted one for another, in cases where great accuracy is not required, yet there is a real and essential difference in their meaning.—It is also evident, that the English language contains the six tenses which we have enumerated. Grammarians who limit the number to two, or at most to three, namely, the present, the imperfect, and the future, do not reflect that the English verb is mostly composed of principal and auxiliary; and that these several parts constitute one verb. Either the English language has no regular future tense, or its future is composed of the auxiliary and the principal verb. If the latter be admitted, then the auxiliary and principal united, constitute a tense, in one instance; and, from reason and analogy, may doubtless do so, in others, in which minuter divisions of time are necessary, or useful. What reason can be assigned for not considering this case, as other cases, in which a whole is regarded as composed of several parts, or of principal and adjuncts? There is nothing heterogeneous in the parts: and precedent, analogy, utility, and even necessity, authorize the union.

In support of this opinion, we have the authority of eminent grammarians; in particular, that of Dr. Beattie. "Some writers," says the doctor, "will not allow any thing to be

a tense, but what, in one inflected word, expresses an affirmation with time; for that those parts of the verb are not properly called tenses, which assume that appearance, by means of auxiliary words. At this rate, we should have, in English, two tenses only, the present and the past in the active verb, and in the passive no tenses at all. But this is a needless nicety; and if adopted, would introduce confusion into the grammatical art. If *amaveram* be a tense, why should not *amatus fueram*? If *I heard* be a tense, *I did hear*, *I have heard*, and *I shall hear*, must be equally entitled to that application."

The proper form of a tense, in the Greek and Latin tongues, is certainly that which it has in the grammars of those languages. But in the Greek and Latin grammars, we uniformly find, that some of the tenses are formed by variations of the principal verb; and others, by the addition of a helping verb. It is, therefore, indisputable, that the principal verb, or rather its participle, and an auxiliary, constitute a regular tense in the Greek and Latin languages. This point being established, we may, doubtless, apply it to English verbs; and extend the principle as far as convenience and the idiom of our language require.

If it should be said, that, on the same ground that a participle and auxiliary are allowed to form a tense, and the verb is to be conjugated accordingly, the English noun and pronoun ought to be declined at large, with articles and prepositions; we must object to the inference. Such a mode of declension is not adapted to our language. This we think has been already proved\*. It is also confessedly inapplicable to the learned languages. Where, then, is the grammatical inconsistency, or the want of conformity to the principles of analogy, in making some tenses of the English verb to consist of principal and auxiliary; and the cases of English nouns, chiefly in their termination? The argument from analogy, instead of militating against us, appears to confirm

\* See page 54.



and establish our position. See pages 78—80. 102—104. 108—111. 201—203.

We shall close these remarks on the tenses, with a few observations extracted from the *ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA*. They are worth the student's attention, as a part of them applies, not only to our views of the tenses, but to many other parts of the work.—"Harris (by way of hypothesis) has enumerated no fewer than twelve tenses. Of this enumeration we can by no means approve; for, without entering into a minute examination of it, nothing can be more obvious, than that his *inceptive present*, "I am going to write," is a future tense; and his *completive present*, "I have written," a past tense. But, as was before observed of the classification of words, we cannot help being of opinion, that, to take the tenses as they are commonly received, and endeavour to ascertain their nature and their differences, is a much more useful exercise, as well as more proper for a work of this kind, than to raise, as might easily be raised, new theories on the subject\*."

SECTION 6. *The Conjugation of the auxiliary verbs*  
TO HAVE and TO BE.

THE Conjugation of a verb, is the regular combination and arrangement of its several numbers, persons, moods, and tenses.

The Conjugation of an active verb is styled the ACTIVE VOICE; and that of a passive verb, the PASSIVE VOICE.

The auxiliary and active verb TO HAVE, is conjugated in the following manner

\*The following criticism affords an additional support to the author's system of the tenses. &c.

\* Under the head of Etymology, the author of this grammar judiciously adheres to the natural simplicity of the English language, without embarrassing the learner with distinctions peculiar to the Latin tongue. The difficult subject of the Tenses is clearly explained; and with less encumbrance of technical phraseology, than in most other grammars."

Analytical Review.

TO HAVE.

Indicative Mood.

PRESENT TENSE.

SINGULAR.

1. *Pers.* I have.
2. *Pers.* Thou hast.
3. *Pers.* He, she, or it }  
hath or has.

PLURAL.

1. We have.
2. Ye or you have.
3. They have.

IMPERFECT TENSE\*.

SINGULAR.

1. I had.
2. Thou hadst.
3. He, &c. had.

PLURAL.

1. We had.
2. Ye or you had.
3. They had.

PERFECT TENSE\*.

SINGULAR.

1. I have had.
2. Thou hast had.
3. He has had.

PLURAL.

1. We have had.
2. Ye or you have had.
3. They have had.

PLUPERFECT TENSE\*.

SINGULAR.

1. I had had.
2. Thou hadst had.
3. He had had.

PLURAL.

1. We had had.
2. Ye or you had had.
3. They had had.

FIRST FUTURE TENSE.

SINGULAR.

1. I shall or will have.
2. Thou shalt or wilt have.
3. He shall or will have.

PLURAL.

1. We shall or will have.
2. Ye or you shall or will have.
3. They shall or will have.

\*The terms which we have adopted, to designate the three past tenses, may not be exactly significant of their nature and distinctions. But as they are used by grammarians in general, and have an established authority; and, especially, as the meaning attached to each of them, and their different significations, have been carefully explained; we presume that no solid objection can be made to the use of terms so generally approved, and so explicitly defined. See pages 86 and 88. We are supported in these sentiments, by the authority of Dr. Johnson. See the first note in his "Grammar of the English Tongue," prefixed to his dictionary.—If, however, any teachers should think it warrantable to change the established names, they cannot perhaps find any more appropriate, than the terms *first preterit*, *second preterit*, and *third preterit*.—See the Octavo Grammar, pages 65, 66.



## SECOND FUTURE TENSE.

SINGULAR.	PLURAL.
1. I shall have had.	1. We shall have had.
2. Thou wilt have had.	2. Ye or you will have had.
3. He will have had.	3. They will have had.

## Imperative Mood.

SINGULAR.	PLURAL.
1. Let me have.	1. Let us have.
2. Have, or have thou, or do thou have.	2. Have, or have ye, or do ye or you have.
3. Let him have.	3. Let them have*.

The imperative mood is not strictly entitled to *three* persons. The command is always addressed to the *second* person, not to the first or third. For when we say, "Let me have," "Let him, or let them have," the meaning and construction are, *do thou*, or *do ye*, let me, him, or them have. In philosophical strictness, both number and person might be entirely excluded from every verb. They are, in fact, the properties of substantives, not a part of the essence of a verb. Even the name of the *imperative* mood does not always correspond to its nature: for it sometimes *petitions* as well as commands. But, with respect to all these points, the practice of our grammarians is so uniformly fixed, and so analogous to the languages, ancient and modern, which our youth have to study, that it would be an unwarrantable degree of innovation, to deviate from the established terms and arrangements. See the *advertisement* at the end of the Introduction, page 8; and the quotation from the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, page 86.

## Potential Mood.

## PRESENT TENSE.

SINGULAR.	PLURAL.
1. I may or can have.	1. We may or can have.
2. Thou mayst or canst have.	2. Ye or you may or can have.
3. He may or can have.	3. They may or can have.

\* If such sentences should be rigorously examined, the imperative will appear to consist merely in the word *let*. See *Parsina*, v. 223.

## IMPERFECT TENSE.

SINGULAR.	PLURAL.
1. I might, could, would, or should have.	1. We might, could, would, or should have.
2. Thou mightst, couldst, wouldst, or shouldst have.	2. Ye or you might, could, would, or should have.
3. He might, could, would, or should have.	3. They might, could, would, or should have.

## PERFECT TENSE.

SINGULAR.	PLURAL.
1. I may or can have had.	1. We may or can have had.
2. Thou mayst or canst have had.	2. Ye or you may or can have had.
3. He may or can have had.	3. They may or can have had.

## PLUPERFECT TENSE.

SINGULAR.	PLURAL.
1. I might, could, would, or should have had.	1. We might, could, would, or should have had.
2. Thou mightst, couldst, wouldst, or shouldst have had.	2. Ye or you might, could, would, or should have had.
3. He might, could, would, or should have had.	3. They might, could, would, or should have had*.

## Subjunctive Mood.

## PRESENT TENSE.

SINGULAR.	PLURAL.
1. If I have.	1. If we have.
2. If thou have †.	2. If ye or you have.
3. If he have †.	3. If they have.

\* *Shall* and *will*, when they denote inclination, resolution, promise, may be considered, as well as their relations *should* and *would*, as belonging to the potential mood. But as they generally signify futurity, they have been appropriated, as helping verbs, to the formation of the future tenses of the indicative and subjunctive moods.

† Grammarians, in general, conjugate the present of the auxiliary, in this manner. But we presume that this is the form of the verb, considered as a *principal*, not as an *auxiliary* verb. See page 200, Note 5.



The remaining tenses or forms of the subjunctive mood, are, in every respect, similar to the correspondent tenses of the indicative mood\*; with the addition to the verb, of a conjunction, expressed or implied, denoting a condition, motive, wish, supposition, &c. It will be proper to direct the learner to repeat all the tenses of this mood, with a conjunction prefixed to each of them. See, on this subject, the observations at page 103; and the notes on the nineteenth rule of syntax.

### Infinitive Mood.

PRESENT. To have. PERFECT. To have had.

#### PARTICIPLES.

PRESENT OR ACTIVE. Having.

PERFECT. Had.

COMPOUND PERFECT. Having had.

As the subjunctive mood, in English, has no variation, in the form of the verb, from the indicative, (except in the present tense, and the second future tense, of verbs generally, and the present and imperfect tenses of the verb *to be*.) it would be superfluous to conjugate it in this work, through every tense. But all the other moods and tenses of the verbs, both in the active and passive voices, are conjugated at large, that the learners may have no doubts or misapprehensions respecting their particular forms. They to whom the subject of grammar is entirely new, and young persons especially, are much more readily and effectually instructed, by seeing the parts of a subject so essential as the verb, unfolded and spread before them, in all their varieties, than by being generally and cursorily informed of the manner in which they may be exhibited. The time employed by the scholars, in consequence of this display of the verbs, is of small moment, compared with the advantages which they will probably derive from the plan.

\* Except that the second and third persons, singular and plural, of the second future tense, require the auxiliary *shalt, shall*, instead of *wilt, will*. Thus, "He *will* have completed the work by midsummer," is the indicative form: but the subjunctive is, "If he *shall* have completed the work by midsummer."

It may not, however, be generally proper for young persons beginning the study of grammar, to commit to memory all the tenses of the verbs. If the *simple* tenses, namely, the *present* and the *imperfect*, together with the *first future tense*, should, in the first instance, be committed to memory, and the rest carefully perused and explained, the business will not be tedious to the scholars, and their progress will be rendered more obvious and pleasing. The general view of the subject, thus acquired and impressed, may afterwards be extended with ease and advantage.

It appears to be proper, for the information of the learners, to make a few observations in this place, on some of the tenses, &c. The first is, that, in the potential mood, some grammarians confound the present with the imperfect tense and the perfect with the pluperfect. But that they are really distinct, and have an appropriate reference to time, correspondent to the definitions of those tenses, will appear from a few examples; "I wished him to stay, but he *would* not;" "I *could* not accomplish the business in time;" "It was my direction that he *should* submit;" "He was ill, but I thought he *might* live;" "I *may* have misunderstood him;" "He *cannot* have deceived me;" "He *might* have finished the work sooner, but he *could not* have done it better."—It must, however, be admitted, that, on some occasions, the auxiliaries *might, could, would, and should*, refer also to present and to future time. See page 83.

The next remark is, that the auxiliary *will*, in the first person singular and plural of the second future tense; and the auxiliary *shall*, in the second and third persons of that tense, in the indicative mood, appear to be incorrectly applied. The impropriety of such associations may be inferred from a few examples: "I *will* have had previous notice, whenever the event happens;" "Thou *shalt* have served thy apprenticeship before the end of the year;" "He *shall* have completed his business when the messenger arrives;" "I *shall* have had; thou *wilt* have served; he *will* have completed," etc. would have been correct and applicable. The peculiar import of these auxiliaries, as explained in page 98,



under section 7, seems to account for their impropriety in the applications just mentioned.

Some writers on Grammar object to the propriety of admitting the second future, in both the indicative and subjunctive moods: but that this tense is applicable to both moods, will be manifest from the following examples. "John will have earned his wages the next new-year's day," is a simple declaration, and therefore in the indicative mood: "If he shall have finished his work when the bell rings, he will be entitled to the reward," is conditional and contingent, and is therefore in the subjunctive mood.

We shall conclude these detached observations, with one remark which may be useful to the young scholar, namely, that as the indicative mood is converted into the subjunctive, by the expression of a condition, motive, wish, supposition, &c. being superadded to it; so the potential mood may, in like manner, be turned into the subjunctive; as will be seen in the following examples: "If I could deceive him, I should abhor it;" "Though he should increase in wealth, he would not be charitable;" "Even in prosperity he would gain no esteem, unless he should conduct himself better." See page 202.

The auxiliary and neuter verb *To be*, is conjugated as follows:

### TO BE.

#### Indicative Mood.

##### PRESENT TENSE.

SINGULAR.	PLURAL.
1. I am.	1. We are.
2. Thou art.	2. Ye or you are.
3. He, she, or it is.	3. They are.

##### IMPERFECT TENSE.

SINGULAR.	PLURAL.
1. I was.	1. We were.
2. Thou wast.	2. Ye or you were.
3. He was.	3. They were.

#### PERFECT TENSE.

SINGULAR.	PLURAL.
1. I have been.	1. We have been.
2. Thou hast been.	2. Ye or you have been.
3. He hath or has been.	3. They have been.

#### PLUPERFECT TENSE.

SINGULAR.	PLURAL.
1. I had been.	1. We had been.
2. Thou hadst been.	2. Ye or you had been.
3. He had been.	3. They had been.

#### FIRST FUTURE TENSE.

SINGULAR.	PLURAL.
1. I shall or will be.	1. We shall or will be.
2. Thou shalt or wilt be.	2. Ye or you shall or will be.
3. He shall or will be.	3. They shall or will be.

#### SECOND FUTURE TENSE.

SINGULAR.	PLURAL.
1. I shall have been.	1. We shall have been.
2. Thou wilt have been.	2. Ye or you will have been.
3. He will have been.	3. They will have been.

#### Imperative Mood.

SINGULAR.	PLURAL.
1. Let me be.	1. Let us be.
2. Be thou or do thou be.	2. Be ye or you, or do ye be.
3. Let him be.	3. Let them be.

#### Potential Mood.

##### PRESENT TENSE.

SINGULAR.	PLURAL.
1. I may or can be.	1. We may or can be.
2. Thou mayst or canst be.	2. Ye or you may or can be.
3. He may or can be.	3. They may or can be.