

English Grammar Series.

BOOK III.

IDIOM AND GRAMMAR

FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS

BY

J. C. NESFIELD, M.A.

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[Specimen Half Page from "Sindbad the Sailor," Chinese translation.]

信鳥

漁人某卜居河濱。家惟草舍數椽。每日
飛鳥和鳴其間。河水雖深。因有樹木蔽
流中有一物。載沉載浮。隨流漂去。異而
女二嬰孩。睡於棉絮裯上。漁人始甚驚
出抱回。已家妻見之不喜。曰。你抱這兩
已。已經有八個兒女了。你還嫌少麼。你
找來了。這麼兩個。叫我如何撫養他們。
兩個嬰孩。是我從河中救起來的。我既
來。這兩個嬰孩。長得比我們自己生的
人。手中。你不必憂愁。上天自能輔助我。

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EDITOR'S NOTE.

IF I were asked to give advice in the matter of using these and similar reading books, I would say: Do not interrupt the pupil who stumbles over and cannot understand a hard word: let nothing at all break the thread of the story.

Do not ask the pupils very many questions at the first or even at the second reading; but encourage them to ask questions.

Never let a story disappear from view without asking for the pupil's version of it without book.

One more piece of advice is necessary: continually revise. It comes to this, that we want to interest children in their reading; to make it less like a lesson; to burn it into their memories and keep it there.

Page Line

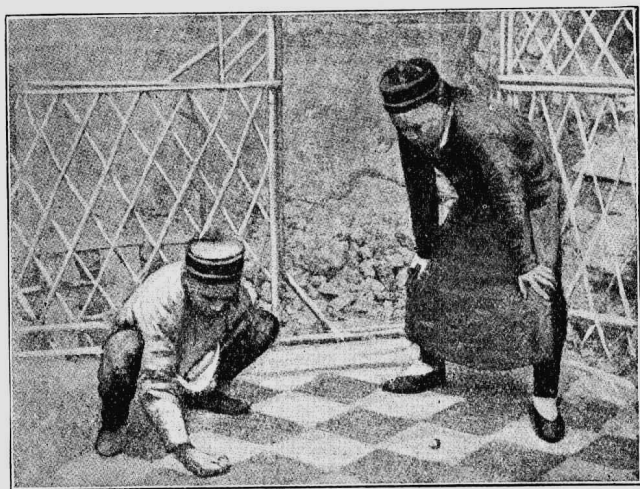
- 50 11 all present 凡在者 凡在會者
 18 touching strains 淒楚 動人之聲
 19 went to one's very heart 酸人胸臆 動人中心
 23 declined the honour with thanks 辭謝恩賞
 51 3 a peculiar virtue 特別—德性
 7 take up her abode 就居, 止寓
 9 besides 除
 10 twice a day 一日兩次
 11 on several occasions 當此等時候
 15 after such a fashion 如此情形, 如此光景
 16 ran on no other subject 不及於他事
 18 old-clothes-men's 穿舊式衣服之人 (老古板)
 20 had a note 有聲調
 52 2 mechanism 機器, 妙機
 artificial 人工所製
 6 wound up 上輪, 絞上法條
 8 wagged its tail 搖尾
 9 sparkling 照耀 閃耀
 19 duet 兩人合奏之音樂
 24 barrel 圓筒
 It is not the fault of the latter 非此鳥之過

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不容其或傷者也是可知胸牆
堅固之妙用矣。
軀幹之下段爲腹部。此中所容
之臟腑亦屬重要之具。惟不若
心肺之易於受傷耳。故腹前與
兩旁。雖僅以皮肉護衛之而亦
不致受傷。且人身之腰。宜便於
彎曲。故腰間無骨。否則人將不
能偻腰矣。腹中之臟腑大都係
消化飲食。推陳出新之具。茲不
多贅。另課詳明。



人 腰 間 無 骨 故 能 偻 身

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First Edition 1898

*Reprinted 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907,
1908 (twice), 1909 (twice), 1910, 1911 (twice), 1912 (twice)
1913 (twice)*

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CHAPTER I.

ANALYTICAL OUTLINE : GENERAL DEFINITIONS.

1. **A Sentence.**—A combination of words that makes a *complete* sense is called a **Sentence**. The sense is not complete, unless something is *said* about something else.

A ship went out to sea.

2. There are five different kinds of sentences :—

(1) Those which simply affirm or deny something are called **Assertive**.

A man's success depends chiefly on himself. (*Affirmative.*)
He did not get much help from others. (*Negative.*)

(2) Those which contain some command or prohibition are called **Imperative**.

Rely chiefly on your own efforts. (*Command.*)
Do not rely much on the help of others. (*Prohibition.*)

(3) Those which inquire about something are called **Interrogative**.

Have you finished that task ?

(4) Those which express some wish are called **Optative**.

God save the queen.

(5) Those which express some feeling of the mind in connection with the assertion made are called **Exclamatory**.

What a foolish fellow you have been !

3. **Subject and Predicate.**—The word or words denoting the person or thing about which something is said are called the **Subject** of the sentence.

A ship went out to sea.

The word or words which say something about the person or thing denoted by the Subject, as "*went out*," are called the **Predicate**.

Hence no sentence can be made without a Subject and a Predicate. These two things are necessary to make a *complete* sense.

4. A Phrase.—A combination of words that makes sense, but not a *complete* sense, is called a **Phrase**.

On the river. Through thick and thin. A bird in the hand.

5. A Clause.—A sentence which is *part of a larger sentence* is called a **Clause**.

This is the house | where we live.

Here "where we live" is a sentence, because it has a subject "we" and a predicate "live." Similarly "this is the house" is a sentence, having "this" for its subject and "is" for its predicate. But both are *parts of a larger sentence*, and hence each of them is called a clause.

6. Nouns.—A word used for *naming* anything is called a **Noun**, as "ship," "fox," "house," "man." Hence a noun is the *naming* word. (The words "noun" and "name" are the same at bottom, but differently spelt.)

7. Pronouns.—A word used *instead of a noun* is called a **Pronoun**.

A ship went out to sea, and *she* had all her sails up.

Here the pronoun "she" is used instead of the noun "ship," and saves its being mentioned twice. Hence a pronoun is a *substitute* word, and its chief use is to *save the repetition of a noun*.

8. Adjectives.—If I wish to *qualify* (that is, add something to the meaning of) a noun, the word used for such a purpose is called an **Adjective**.

A *fine* ship went out to sea.

The word *Adjective* means "adding," and is so called because it adds something to the meaning of a noun.

9. Verbs.—Words used for predicating (that is, saying something about some person or thing) are called **Verbs**.

A fine ship *went out* to sea.

Here the word which predicates or says something about a ship is "*went out*." This is therefore a verb; and thus the *predicate of a sentence must be a verb*, or it must at least contain one.

10. Preposition with its Object.—In the phrase "to sea," the word "to" is called a **Preposition**. This word

expresses the relation in which the thing denoted by "sea" stands to the event denoted by "went out."

The noun, pronoun, or other noun-equivalent that follows the preposition is called its **Object**.

The use of a preposition, then, is *to show the relation in which the person or thing denoted by its Object stands to something else.*

11. Conjunctions.—A Conjunction is a *joining word*. It joins words and phrases to one another, or one sentence to another sentence.

(a) He made himself mean *and* of no reputation.

(b) May he live long *and* (may he) die happily.

In (a) the adjective "mean" is joined to the phrase "of no reputation" by the conjunction "and."

In (b) the sentence "may he live long" is joined by the same conjunction to the sentence "may he die happily."

12. Adverbs.—These, like adjectives, are *qualifying words*. An adjective, as we have shown, qualifies a *noun*; an adverb qualifies *anything except a noun or pronoun*.¹

That *very* fine ship has *already* sailed *half* through the Channel.

Here "very" is an adverb qualifying the adjective "fine"; "already" is an adverb qualifying the verb "has sailed"; and "half" is an adverb qualifying the preposition "through."

13. Interjections.—These are not words connected, as other words are, with other parts of a sentence; but mere *sounds* standing by themselves and thrown into a sentence to express some feeling of the mind.

My son, *alas!* is not industrious.

Here "alas" is a sound thrown into the sentence to express regret.

14. The Parts of Speech defined.—Words are divided into different kinds or classes according to the purpose that they are used for. The different kinds of words are called **Parts of Speech**. They are eight in number, and have been described already:—

(1) A Noun is a word used for naming some person or thing.

¹ In other Grammars an Adverb is defined to be "a word used to qualify verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs." The inadequacy of this definition, which excludes Prepositions and Conjunctions from the qualifying power of adverbs, is further shown in § 253.

(2) A Pronoun is a word used instead of a noun or noun-equivalent.

(3) An Adjective is a word used to qualify a noun.

(4) A Verb is a word used for saying something about some person or thing.

(5) A Preposition is a word placed before a noun or noun-equivalent to show in what relation the person or thing denoted by the noun stands to something else.

(6) A Conjunction is a word used to join words or phrases together, or one clause to another clause.

(7) An Adverb is a word used to qualify any part of speech except a noun or pronoun.

(8) An Interjection is a word or sound thrown into a sentence to express some feeling of the mind.

15. The Articles.—The words “a” and “the” are called **Articles**. “The” is called the *Definite Article*, because it particularises a noun. “A” or “an” is called the *Indefinite*, because it does not particularise a noun, but generalises it.

The articles are not a distinct part of speech, but merely adjectives. “A” or “an” is an abbreviated form of the adjective “one”; while “the” is an abbreviated form of “this,” “that,” “these,” “those.”

16. Finite Verb : Number and Person.—Any part of a verb that can be used *as the Predicate of a sentence* is called **Finite**.

The word “*finite*” means “limited.” A finite verb is so called, because it is limited to the same **Person** (*First, Second, or Third*) and to the same **Number** (*Singular or Plural*) as its Subject.

(a) I see him.

(b) They see him.

In both sentences the form of the verb “see” is the same. But in (a) the verb is in the First person, because its Subject “I” is in the First person, and in the Singular number, because its Subject is Singular. Similarly in (b) the verb is in the Third person, because its Subject “they” is in the Third person, and Plural, because its Subject is Plural.

17. Parts of a Verb not finite.—There are some parts of a verb, which are not finite, that is, are not limited to any particular Number or Person, because they cannot be used with a Subject or be made the Predicates of a sentence.

Such parts are three in number :—(1) the **Infinitive**