

初中學生文庫

簡明英文法

第一冊

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# CONCISE ENGLISH GRAMMAR

## BOOK ONE

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### LESSON I

#### THE ALPHABET

Letters make up the alphabet.

In the English Alphabet there are twenty-six letters. *A* is the first letter.

*Z* is the last letter.

A word is made up of two or more letters. But there are three letters in the English Alphabet, each of which is sometimes used by itself as a word.

These letters are A, I, O.

*A* man sees.

*I* am a boy.

*O* brother, help me.

In these sentences, *A*, *I*, *O*, are used as words.

Five of the twenty-six letters are called *Vowels*.

These letters are *a*, *e*, *i*, *o*, *u*. The rest of the letters are called *Consonants*.

There are twenty-one consonants in the Alphabet. Every word must have a vowel in it and a consonant, except the three words *A, I, O*, which are words of one letter only and that letter is a vowel.

### EXERCISES

1. Point out the Vowels in these words;  
    Hat, Get, Him, Boy, Put.
2. Name the Consonants in these words;  
    Pen, Cat, Ink, Ox, Run.
3. Name all the consonants in the Alphabet.
4. Make six words of three letters, each word having the vowel *O*.
5. Give six words of four letters, each word with the vowel *A*.
6. *Come* is a word of four letters, two being vowels.  
    Give six words like this.
7. Give four words of three letters, two ending in *t*, two ending in *d*.
8. How many vowels and consonants are there in this sentence?

There are many pupils in our class.

## LESSON 2

### SPELLING

To spell a word is to name the letters in it.

The two letters *D, O* spell the word *Do*.

The three letters *B, O, Y* spell the word *Boy*.

The four letters *G, I, R, L* spell the word *Girl*.

The five letters *C, H, I, N, A* spell the word *China*.

In some words the same letter comes twice. In the word *All* there are two letters *l* coming one after the other. In spelling the word *All*, we say *A, L, L*, or *A double L—All*.

In spelling the word *Bee* we say *B, E, E*, or *B double E—Bee*.

In spelling *Book*, we say *B, O, O, K*, or *B double O, K—Book*.

### EXERCISES

1. Spell the words;

Run, Quick, China, English, Reading, Grammar.

2. Name the vowels and consonants in these words;

Walk, Flower, She, Land, Play, Study.

3. Spell the words;

Tell, Ball, Hotter, Boot, Foot, Bell, Seem, Taller,  
Beautiful, Sweet.

## LESSON 3

SMALL LETTERS AND LARGE  
LETTERS—CAPITALS

In reading a book, we see some letters are small and some letters are large.

A, B, C, D are large letters used in printed books.

a, b, c, d are small letters used in print.

The large letters we call Capital letters.

Nearly all the letters you see in books are small letters. Here and there you see a capital letter.

When do we use capital letters? Are there any rules to tell us when to use a capital and when to use small letters? The rules are;  
A capital is the first letter in;

1. The first word in a complete sentence.  
Every complete sentence in this book begins with a capital letter. The first word after a full stop always begins with a capital letter.

2. The name of a person—a man, woman, or child, as;

Dr. Sun Yat-sen, Muh-lan, Siao-nu.

3. The name of a country, a town, or a village, as;

China, Nanking, Lunghwa.

4. The names of mountains or rivers, as;

Tai Shan, The Yellow River.

5. The name of the day of a week or a month, as;

Monday, Tuesday, May, June.

### EXERCISES

1. Write down the names of the days of the week.
2. Write the names of five boys in your class.
3. Why are the capitals used in each of these sentences?

Shanghai is a very rich city.

The largest city in the world is London.

Did you hear Sih-mo say that?

Where is the Chang Pei Shan?

The Yangtse is a river in China.

4. Which is the right way to write down these words, and why?

peiping or Peiping; march or March; chang or Chang.

5. Point out any error in these sentences;

he lives in canton. she went to japan. i will come on saturday.

6. Make three sentences with the name of a river in each.

7. Write these sentences putting in words where there are blanks.

Sun Fo is the son of —.

— is the president of National Government.

— carried away Shu-ling to —.

My name is —.

I live in the city of —.

The highest mountain in China is —.

— is the capital of Hunan.

The coldest season is —.

LESSON 4

CAPITALS—(*Continued*)

We had five rules for the use of Capitals in the last lesson. Here are three more rules.

6. A capital is used for *I* and *O* when these letters are used as words, as in the sentences;

Do as I tell you.

O Father, hear me.

7. The chief words in a sentence often begin with capitals.

The Great War began in the year 1914.

This book tells us about Words and Sentences.

8. When the very words of some one are repeated, the first word begins with a capital letter.

He said, "Will you go there?"

EXERCISES

Why are the capital letters used in these sentences?—

In what part of China is Kwangtung?

O my dear friend, tell me the truth.

Chang said to Wang, "I cannot do that."

This book is a Grammar.

## LESSON 5

## SYLLABLES

Some words are short, other words are long. We may break up long words into parts, each of which can be sounded by itself. These parts we call syllables.

A syllable is a short word, or a part of a long word which can be sounded by itself. Nearly all very short words are of one syllable.

*Be* is a word of one syllable.

*Begin* is a word of two syllables, *Be*, and *gin*,

*Be* can be sounded by itself, and *gin* can be sounded by itself.

*Beginner* is a word of three syllables, *Be gin* and *ner*.

A vowel is a letter which can be sounded by itself. A syllable may be one letter, if that letter be a vowel.

*Again* has two syllables, *A* and *gain*.

*Ever* has two syllables, *E* and *ver*.

*Idle* has two syllables, *I* and *dle*.

*Open* has two syllables, *O* and *pen*.

*Utter* has two syllables, *Ut* and *ter*.

The first syllable in each of these five words is a vowel.

A consonant is a letter which cannot be sounded by itself. It must have a vowel to give it sound. So, a consonant cannot make a word or a syllable by itself. It must have a vowel before it or after it to make it into a word or a syllable.

In the word *At*, the letter *t* has the help of vowel *A* before it, to make up the word *At*.

In the word *He*, the consonant *H* has the help of the vowel *e* after it, to make up the word or the syllable *He*.

In the word *Sit*, the consonant *S* has the vowel *i* after it.

The vowel *i* in the middle of the word helps the consonant, one before it, and one after it.

Now can you divide into syllables the following words?

Can, ago, as, on, in, box, boy, big, running, reading, English, China, Nanking.

## LESSON 6

## SENTENCES, WORDS, LETTERS

In talking and in writing, we use words. We put these words into sentences.

A sentence is a number of words which make senses. Read these words:

Wang is.

There is no sense in these two words alone, for they have no meaning.

They do not tell who or what Wang is.

But if we say:

Wang is a tall boy,

*or*, Wang is my brother,

these words do make sense. They have a meaning.

They are sentences. One sentence tells us *what* Wang is. He is a tall boy. The other sentence tells us *who* he is. Wang is my brother.

Read the words in these three lines:

1. Came here.
2. Went away.
3. I have.

Are these words sentences? No. They do not make sense. We want to know *who* came here; *who* went away; *what* I have. Some words are wanting. If we put them in, we shall have sentences.

Now read these three lines:

1. Li came here.
2. Chang went away.
3. I have a book.

These are sentences. They make sense.

A sentence may be short or it may be long. In it there may be one word only, or there may be many words.

*Come*, is a sentence with one word.

*Come here*, is a sentence with two words.

*Wang, come here*, is a sentence with three words.

*Wang, come here soon*, is a sentence with four words.

Every sentence is made up of words. Every word is made up of letters. Letters are parts of words. Words are parts of sentences.

S is a letter.

U is a letter.

N is a letter.

SUN is a word. In it there are three letters,  
*s, u, n.*

*The sun shines* is a sentence. In it there are three words—*The sun shines*. There are three letters in the word *The*, three letters in the word *sun*, and six letters in the word *shines*.

### EXERCISES

1. Put words into the blanks so as to make sentences.

— ran. She —. Write —. Shanghai is  
— —. — slept. — went. What —?  
Where —? Who —? Shu-kung —. When  
—? Why —? My name is —. This is  
your —. Tell him to —. Ask her to —.

2. Make six sentences with three words in each.  
3. Give six words with two letters in each.  
4. Give six words with four letters in each.  
5. Make three sentences with one word in each.  
6. How many letters are there in each of these words?

English, Nanking, read, home, do, write, talking,  
yesterday.

## LESSON 7

## NOUNS AND VERBS

When we talk or write, we talk or write about something or somebody. That something or somebody has a name. That name is a *Noun*. In grammar, every name is a noun. The word *Noun* means *name*. A noun is a naming word.

What we say about the noun is a *Verb*. A verb says something. It is a saying or telling word.

In the sentence—*The sun shines*,  
we talk about the sun. We say that it shines.

*Sun* is a noun. It is the name of something.

*Shines* is a verb. It tells us what the sun does. It shines.

In the sentence—*John ran*,  
the word *John* is a noun. It is the name of a person.

The word *ran* is a verb. It tells us what John did. He ran.

In the sentence—*Birds fly*,  
the word *Birds* is a noun; the word *fly* is a verb.

## EXERCISES

1. Which is the noun and which is the verb in these sentences?—The moon shines. The bud opened. The flower smells. The dog barked. The cock crows. The cat bites. The boy laughed. Father is talking.
2. Make four sentences, with a noun and a verb in each.
3. What is a noun? What is a verb?
4. Give six nouns, names of things in your school-room.

EXERCISES (*Continued*)

1. Make a list of the consonants in this sentence:  
They came here yesterday.
2. Make four sentences with one of these nouns in each:  
Man, boy, girl, book.
3. Make four sentences with one of these verbs in each:  
Came, eat, run, write.
4. Put a noun into each of the blanks in these sentences:  
The stars are in the —.  
The moon shines at —.  
The sun sets in the —.  
The — is on the table.  
I have five — on my hand.  
He has five — on his foot.  
I hear with my —, I see with my —  
Leaves grow on —.

5. Point out two nouns in each of these sentences:

The sun is in the sky.

The birds are on the tree.

A pen is in his hand.

My cap is on my head.

The well is near the house.

That boy has a stick.

The cow gives us milk.

6. Point out the verbs in these sentences:

He works in the day, he sleeps at night.

The kite flies high in the sky.

Learn your lessons well.

My sister came to see me yesterday.

The boys ran home very fast.

I hear a loud noise.

The frog jumped out of the water.

My father gave me four dollars.

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## LESSON 8

### NOUNS, PROPER AND COMMON

A Noun is the name of something or somebody. There are therefore two kinds of nouns—names of persons and names of things.

The name of a person is a *Proper noun*, such as:  
John, Li, Wang.

These are Proper nouns because they are the names of persons. The name of a common thing is a *Common noun*, such as:

Boy, tree, book, box, hill.

These things are called *common* because there are many of them. There are many boys, trees, books, and hills. They are very common, and so their names are common nouns.

Among Proper nouns we also put the names of countries, cities, rivers, and mountains, such as:

Taishan, Yangtse, China, Nanking.

These are not persons, it is true, but they are not *common*. There is only one of each. The *words* country, city, river, and mountain are common nouns, because there are many countries, rivers, and cities. The *name* of any one city or river is a Proper noun.

In the same way the *name* of a month, or of a day of the week is a Proper noun, such as:

June, Monday.

There is only one day in a week called Monday, and only one month in the year called June. This is why we say they are Proper nouns.

Every Proper noun begins with a capital letter.