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OUTLINE OF ENGLISH GRAMMAR

IN FIVE PARTS

- I.—NOUNS, ADJECTIVES, PRONOUNS, ADVERBS, PREPOSITIONS, AND CONJUNCTIONS.
- II.—VERBS AND THEIR INFLECTIONS.
- III.—PARSING AND SYNTAX.
- IV.—ANALYSIS AND CONVERSION OF SENTENCES: SEQUENCE OF TENSES.
- V.—ANALYSIS AND DERIVATION OF WORDS: SOUNDS AND SPELLINGS.

BY

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MACMILLAN AND CO., LIMITED
ST. MARTIN'S STREET, LONDON

1908

First Edition, February 1900
Reprinted October 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903 (twice)
1905 (twice), 1906, 1907, 1908



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PART I.—NOUNS, ADJECTIVES, PRONOUNS,
ADVERBS, PREPOSITIONS, AND CONJUNCTIONS.

CHAPTER I.—HOW TO TELL THE PARTS OF
SPEECH.

1. **How to tell the Parts of Speech.**—To find out the “Part of Speech” to which a word belongs, or in which it is used in any given example, ask yourself, “*What kind of work does the word do in the sentence before me? What part does it play in helping to make the sentence?*”

(1) If a word *gives a name* to some individual person or thing or to some kind of person or thing, the word is a **Noun** :—

James saw an apple fall to the ground.

Here “*James*” is the name of some person. “*Apple*” is the name of a kind of fruit. “*Ground*” is a name given to the earth we stand on. So *James*, *apple*, and *ground* are all nouns.

“Noun” and “name” mean the same thing. “Noun” is of Latin origin (*nomen*). “Name” is of Anglo-Saxon origin (*nama*).

(2) If a word *refers* to some person or thing *without giving a name* to the person or thing referred to, the word is a **Pronoun**. (If it gives a *name* to some person or thing, it is of course a Noun, not a Pronoun. Herein lies the essential difference between the one part of speech and the other.)

You and he came here a week before me.

Here “*you*” refers to the person spoken to without naming him; “*he*” refers to some person spoken of, whose name has been mentioned in a previous sentence; “*me*” refers to the person speaking without naming him. So all these words are pronouns.

The word “*pronoun*” means “for (Latin *pro*) a noun”; i.e. a word used instead of a noun, or as a substitute for a noun.

(3) If a word *adds* to the meaning of a noun so as to show