

# GRAMMAR OF THE

| <i>Infia.</i> | <i>Past tense.</i> | <i>Participle.</i> | <i>Past tense obs. Part. obs.</i> | <i>Infia.</i> | <i>Past tense.</i> | <i>Participle.</i> | <i>Past tense obs. Part. obs.</i> |
|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Hurt          | hurt               | hurt               |                                   | Think         | thought            | thought            |                                   |
| Keep          | kept               | kept               |                                   | Thrive        | thrived            | thrived            | throve thriven                    |
| Knit          | knit               | knit               |                                   | Throw         | threw              | thrown             |                                   |
| Know          | known              | known              |                                   | Thrust        | thrust             | thrust             |                                   |
| Lade          | laden              | laden              |                                   | Tread         | trod               | trod, trodden      |                                   |
| Laid          | laid               | laid               |                                   | Wax           | waxed              | waxed              | waxed                             |
| Lead          | led                | led                |                                   | Wear          | wore               | worn, wore         |                                   |
| Leave         | left               | left               |                                   | Weave         | wove               | woven, wove        |                                   |
| Lend          | lent               | lent               |                                   | Weep          | wept               | wept               |                                   |
| Let           | let                | let                |                                   | Win           | won                | won                |                                   |
| Lie (down)    | lay                | lain               |                                   | Wind          | wound              | wound              |                                   |
| LOSE          | lost               | lost               |                                   | Work          | worked, wrought    | worked, wrought    |                                   |
| Make          | made               | made               |                                   | Wrung         | wrung, wringed     | wrung, wringed     |                                   |
| Meet          | met                | met                |                                   | Write         | wrote, writ        | writ, written      |                                   |
| Mow           | mowed              | mowed, mown        |                                   |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Pay           | paid               | paid               |                                   |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Put           | put                | put                |                                   |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Read          | read               | read               |                                   |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Rend          | rent               | rent               |                                   |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Rid           | rid                | rid                |                                   |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Ride          | rode, rid          | rid                | ridden                            |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Rise          | rung               | rung               | risen                             |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Rise          | risen              | risen              |                                   |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Rive          | rived              | rived, riven       |                                   |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Run           | ran, run           | run                |                                   |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Saw           | sawed              | sawed, sown        |                                   |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Say           | said               | said               |                                   |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| See           | saw                | seen               |                                   |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Seek          | sought             | sought             |                                   |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Sell          | sold               | sold               |                                   |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Send          | sent               | sent               |                                   |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Set           | set                | set                |                                   |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Shake         | shook              | shaken, shook      |                                   |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Shape         | shaped             | shaped             | shapen                            |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Shave         | shaved             | shaved             | shaven                            |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Shear         | sheared            | sheared            | shorn                             |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Shed          | shed               | shed               |                                   |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Shine         | shone, shined      | shone, shined      |                                   |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Show          | showed             | shown, showed      |                                   |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Shoe          | shod               | shod               |                                   |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Shoot         | shot               | shot               |                                   |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Shrink        | shrank             | shrank             | shrank                            |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Shred         | shred              | shred              |                                   |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Shut          | shut               | shut               |                                   |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Sing          | sung               | sung               | sang                              |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Sink          | sunk               | sunk               | sank                              |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Sit           | sat                | sat                | sitten                            |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Slew          | slain              | slain              |                                   |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Sleep         | slept              | slept              |                                   |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Slide         | slid               | slid               | slidden                           |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Sling         | slung              | slung              |                                   |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Slink         | slunk              | slunk              |                                   |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Slit          | slit, slitted      | slit, slitted      |                                   |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Smite         | smote              | smitten, smit      |                                   |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Sow           | sowed              | sowed, sown        |                                   |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Spoke         | spoke              | spoke, spoken      | spake                             |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Speed         | sped               | sped               |                                   |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Spent         | spent              | spent              |                                   |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Spill         | spilled, spilt     | spilled, spilt     |                                   |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Spin          | spun               | spun               |                                   |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Spit          | spit               | spit               | spat                              |               |                    | spitten            |                                   |
| Spread        | spread             | spread             |                                   |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Spring        | sprung             | sprung             | sprang                            |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Steal         | stole              | stole, stolen      |                                   |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Sting         | stung              | stung              |                                   |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Sink          | stunk              | stunk              | stank                             |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Stride        | stride, strode     | strid              | stridden                          |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Strike        | struck             | struck             | stricken                          |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| String        | strung             | strung             |                                   |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Strive        | strive             | striven            |                                   |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Strow         | strowed            | strowed, strown    |                                   |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Strew         | strewed            | strewed            |                                   |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Swear         | swore              | sworn              | sware                             |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Sweat         | sweat              | sweat              |                                   |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Swell         | swelled            | swelled            | swollen                           |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Swim          | swum, swam         | swum               |                                   |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Swing         | swung              | swung              |                                   |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Take          | took               | taken, took        |                                   |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Teach         | taught             | taught             |                                   |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Tear          | tear               | tear, tore         |                                   |               |                    |                    |                                   |
| Tell          | told               | told               |                                   |               |                    |                    |                                   |

NOTE 1.—The old forms of the past tense, *sang, spake, sprang, forgot*, &c. are here placed among the obsolete words. They are entirely obsolete, in ordinary practice, whether popular or polite; and it seems advisable not to attempt to revive them. In addition to this reason for omitting them, there is one which is not generally understood. The sound of *a* in these and all other like cases, was originally the broad *a* or *an*; which sound, in the Gothic and Saxon, as in the modern Scotch, corresponded nearly with *o* in *spoke, sioke*. *Spoke* is therefore nearer to the original than *spake*, as we now pronounce the vowel *a* with its first or long sound, as in *sake*.

NOTE 2.—In the use of the past tense and participle of some of these verbs, there is a diversity of practice; some authors retaining those which others have rejected as obsolete. Many words which were in use in the days of Shakespeare and Lord Bacon are now wholly laid aside; others are used only in books; while others are obsolescent, being occasionally used; and a few of the old participles, having lost the verbal character, are used only as adjectives. Of the last mentioned species, are *fraught, drunken, milted, beholden, shorn, clad, bounden, cloven*. *Helpen* is entirely obsolete. *Holden, sprallen, gotten and forgotten*, are nearly obsolete in common parlance. *Wrought* is evidently obsolescent. *Stricken* is used only in one phrase, *stricken in age or years*, which we learn from the bible; but in every other case, is inelegant and pedantic.

Bishop Lowth has attempted to revive the use of many of the obsolete past tenses and participles, for which he has, and I think deservedly, incurred the severe animadversions of eminent critics. "Is it not surprising," says Campbell on Rhetoric, b. 2, ch. 2, "that one of Lowth's penetration should think a single person entitled to revive a form of inflection in a particular word, which had been rejected by all good writers of every denomination, for more than a hundred and fifty years." This writer declares what Lowth has advanced on the use of the past tense and participle, to be inconsistent with the very first principles of grammar. He observes justly that authority is every thing in language, and that this authority consists in reputable, national, present usage.

Independent of authority however, there are substantial reasons in the language itself for laying aside the participles ending with *en*, and for removing the differences between the past time and participle. In opposition to the opinion of Lowth, who regrets that our language has so few inflections, and maintains that we should preserve all we have, I think it capable of demonstration that the differences between the past time and participle of the past tense of our irregular verbs, is one of the greatest inconveniences in the language. If we used personal terminations to form our modes and tenses like the Greeks, it would be desirable that they should be carefully retained. But as we have no more than about half a dozen different terminations, and are therefore obliged to form our modes and tenses by means of auxiliaries, the combination of these forms a part of the business of learning the language, which is extremely difficult and perplexing to foreigners. Even the natives of Scotland and Ireland do not always surmount the difficulty. This difficulty is very much augmented by the difference between the past tense and the participle. To remove this difference, in words in which popular usage has given a lead, is to obviate, in a degree, this inconvenience. This is recommended by another circumstance—it will so far reduce our irregular verbs to an analogy with the regular, whose past tense and participle of the perfect are alike.

In a number of words, the dropping of *n* in the participle, will make a convenient distinction between the participle and the adjective; for in the latter, we always retain *en*—we always say, a *written* treatise, a *spoken* language, a *hidden* mystery—though the best authors write, a "mystery *hid* from ages;" "the language *spoke* in Bengal."

Besides, whenever we observe a tendency in a nation to contract words, we may be assured that the contraction is found to be convenient, and is therefore to be countenanced. Indeed if I mistake not, we are indebted to such contractions for many real improvements; as *write* from *grecrite*; *slain* from *ofslagen*; *fastened* from *gefastuode*; *men* from *mannen*; *holy* from *haligan*, &c. And as a general remark, we may be assured that no language ever suffers the loss of a useful word or syllable. If a word or syllable is ever laid aside in national practice, it must be because it is not wanted, or because it is harsh and inconvenient in use, and a word or syllable more consonant to the general taste of a nation or state of society, is substituted.