

GRAMMAR OF THE

Other words of this class, though ending in *s*, are used either wholly in the singular number, or in the one or the other, at the pleasure of the writer.

Amends,	wages,	conies,	economics,
alms,	billiards,	catoques,	mathematics,
bellows,	fives,	dioptries,	mechanics,
gallows,	sessions,	acoustics,	hydraulics,
odds,	measles,	pneumatics,	hydrostatics,
means,	hysterics,	statics,	analytics,
pains,	physics,	statistics,	politics,
news,	ethics,	spherics,	
riches,	optics,	tactics,	

Of these, *pains*, *riches*, and *wages*, are more usually considered as plural—*news* is always singular—*odds* and *means* are either singular or plural—the others are more strictly singular; for *measles* is the name of a disease, and in strictness, no more plural than gout or fever. Small *poor*, for *pocks*, is sometimes considered as a plural, but it ought to be used as singular. *Billiards* has the sense of *game*, containing unity of idea; and *ethics*, *physics* and other similar names, comprehending each the whole system of a particular science, do not convey the ideas of parts or particular branches, but of a whole collectively, a unity, and hence seem to be treated as words belonging to the singular number.

AUTHORITIES.

Pre-eminent by so much odds.
With every odds thy prowess I defy.
Where the odds is considerable.
The wages of sin is death.
Much pains has been taken.
Let a gallows be made of fifty cubits high.
Here he erected a fort and a gallows.
The riches we had in England rears the slow result of long industry and wisdom, and is to be regained, &c.
Mathematics informs us.
Politics is the art of producing individual good by general measures.
Politics contains two parts.
Locke however uses a plural verb with ethics. "The ideas that ethics are conversant about."—B. 4. 12. 8.
Pains, when preceded by much, should always have a singular verb.
Means is so generally used in either number, every means, all means, this means, and these means, that authorities in support of the usage are deemed superfluous.

Gender.

GENDER, in grammar, is a difference of termination, to express distinction of sex.

There being two sexes, *male* and *female*, words which denote males are said to be of the *masculine* gender; those which denote females, of the *feminine* gender. Words expressing things without sex, are said to be of *neuter* gender. There are therefore but two genders; yet for convenience the neuter is classed with the genders; and we say there are three, the masculine, feminine and neuter. The English modes of distinguishing sex are these: 1. The regular termination of the feminine gender is *ess*; which is added to the name of the masculine; as lion, lioness. But when the word ends in *or*, the feminine is formed by retrenching a vowel, and blending two syllables into one; as actor, actress. In a few words, the feminine gender is represented by *ix*, as testatrix, from testator; and a few others are irregular. The following are most of the words which have a distinct termination for the feminine gender:

Actor,	actress.	deacon,	deaconess.
abbot,	abbess.	duke,	duchess.
adulterer,	adulteress.	embassador,	embassadress.
baron,	baroness.	emperor,	empress.
benefactor,	benefactress.	tiger,	tigress.
governor,	governess.	songster,	songstress.
hero,	heroine.	seamster,	seamstress.
heir,	heirress.	viscount,	viscountess.
peer,	peeress.	jew,	jewess.
priest,	priestess.	lion,	lioness.
poet,	poetess.	master,	mistress.
prince,	princess.	marquis,	marchioness.
prophet,	prophetess.	patron,	patroness.
shepherd,	shepherdess.	protector,	protectress.
sorcerer,	sorceress.	executor,	executrix.
tutor,	tutress.	testator,	testatrix.
instructor,	instructress.	elector,	electress.
traitor,	traitress.	administrator,	administratrix.
count,	countess.	widower,	widow.

2. In many instances, animals, with which we have most frequent occasions to be conversant, have different words to express the different sexes;

as man and woman; brother and sister; uncle and aunt; son and daughter; boy and girl; father and mother; horse and mare; bull and cow.

Man however is a general term for the whole race of mankind; so also, *horse* comprehends the whole species. A law to restrain every man from an offence would comprehend *women* and *boys*; and a law to punish a trespass committed by any *horse*, would comprehend all *mares* and *colts*.

3. When words have no distinct termination for the female sex, the sexes are distinguished by prefixing some word indicating sex; as a male rabbit, a female opusium; a he goat, a she goat; a man servant, a maid servant; a male coquet, a female warrior; a cock-sparrow, a hen-sparrow.

4. In all cases, when the sex is sufficiently indicated by a separate word, names may be used to denote females without a distinct termination. Thus, although females are rarely soldiers, sailors, philosophers, or mathematicians, and we seldom have occasion to say, she is a soldier, or an astronomer, yet there is not the least impropriety in the application of these names to females, when they possess the requisite qualifications; for the sex is clearly marked by the word *she* or *female*, or the appropriate name of the woman; as "Joan of Arc was a warrior." "The Amazons, were a nation of female warriors."

Encyc. art. Amazons.

5. Although the English language is philosophically correct in considering things without life as of neither gender, yet by an easy analogy, the imagination conceives of inanimate things as animated and distinguished by sex. On this fiction, called *personification*, depends much of the descriptive force and beauty of poetry. In general, those objects which are remarkable for their strength, influence, and the attribute of imparting, take the masculine gender; those which are remarkable for the more mild and delicate qualities, for beauty and the attribute of producing, become feminine; the sun darts his scorching rays; the moon sheds her paler light.

"Indus or Ganges rolling his broad wave." *Akenside.*

"There does the soul

Consent her soaring flight to restrain." *Ibm*

"Now morn her rosy steps in 'er' eastern clime

Advancing—" *Milton P. L. b. 5.*

"The north east spends his rage." *Thomson.*

CASE.

CASE in Grammar denotes a variation of words to express the relation of things to each other. In English, most of the relations are expressed by separate words; but the relation of property, ownership or possession, is expressed by adding to a name, with an apostrophe; thus, John's book; which words are equivalent to "the book of John." This is called the *Possessive Case*. In English therefore names have two cases only, the *nominative* or simple name, and the *possessive*. The *nominative* before a verb and the *objective* after a verb are not distinguished by inflections, and are to be known only by position or the sense of the passage.

When the letter *s*, added as the sign of the possessive, will coalesce with the name, it is pronounced in the same syllable; as *John's*. But if it will not coalesce, it adds a syllable to the word; as Thomas's bravery, pronounced as if written *Thomasis*; the Church's prosperity, *Churchis* prosperity. These examples show the impropriety of retrenching the vowel; but it occasions no inconvenience to natives.

When words end in *es* or *ss*, the apostrophe is added without *e*; as on eagles' wings; for righteousness' sake.

Pronouns or Substitutes.

PRONOUNS or substitutes are of two kinds; those which are used in the place of the names of persons only, and may be called *personal*; and those which represent names, attributes, a sentence or part of a sentence, or a series of propositions.

The pronouns which are appropriate to persons, are, I, thou, you, he, she, we, ye, and who.

It is used by a speaker to denote himself, and is called the *first person* of the singular number.

When a speaker includes others with himself, he uses *we*. This is the *first person* of the plural number.

Thou and *you* represent the person addressed—*thou*, in solemn discourse, and *you*, in common language. These are the *second person*. In the plural, *ye* is used in solemn style, and *you* in familiar language.

He represents the name of a male, and *she*, that of a female, who is the subject of discourse, but not directly addressed. These are called the *third person*.

It is a substitute for the name of any thing of the neuter gender in the third person, and for a sentence.

They is a substitute for the names of persons or things, and forms the third person of the plural number.

* The termination *or* in Latin, is a contraction of *vir*, a man; as *er* in English is of *ter*, the same word in Saxon. But in common understanding, the idea of gender is hardly attached to these terminations; for we add *er* to words to denote an agent, without life, as grater, heater.

* Originally *teogis*, and really singular.