

Dryden

A I D S

TO

ENGLISH COMPOSITION,

PREPARED FOR

STUDENTS OF ALL GRADES;

EMBRACING

SPECIMENS AND EXAMPLES OF SCHOOL AND COLLEGE EXERCISES,
AND MOST OF THE HIGHER DEPARTMENTS OF ENGLISH
COMPOSITION, BOTH IN PROSE AND VERSE.

BY RICHARD GREEN PARKER, A. M.

"Dimidium facti qui cepti, habet."

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another sentence, but which may be omitted without injuring the sense or construction, and is enclosed between two curved lines like these ; ().

The curved lines between which a parenthesis is enclosed are called crotchets.

Sometimes a sentence is enclosed between marks like these, [] which are called brackets.

The following difference is to be noticed in the use of crotchets and brackets : Crotchets are used to enclose a sentence, or part of a sentence, which is inserted between the parts of another sentence : Brackets are generally used to separate two subjects, or to enclose an explanatory note or observation standing by itself. When a parenthesis occurs within another parenthesis, brackets enclose the former and crotchets the latter ; as in the following sentence from Sterne : " I know the banker I deal with, or the physician I usually call in [there is no need, cried Dr. Slop (waking), to call in any physician in this case] to be neither of them men of much religion."

It may be here remarked, that a parenthesis is frequently placed between commas, instead of crotchets, &c. ; but the best writers avoid the use of parentheses as much as is possible.

The hyphen * is a small mark placed between the parts of a compound word ; as, sea-water, semi-circle.

The hyphen is also used to denote the long sound of a vowel ; as, Epicurēan, decō-rum, balcō-ny.

The hyphen must always be put at the end of the line when part of a word is in one line and part in another ; but, in this case, the letters of a syllable must never be separated ; as, extraor-dinary, not extraor-dinary.

• The dash is a straight mark longer than a hyphen ; thus, —

The proper use of the dash is to express a sudden stop, or change of the subject ; but, by modern writers, it is employed as a substitute for almost all of the other marks ; being used sometimes for a comma, semi-colon, colon, or period ; sometimes for a question or an exclamation, and sometimes for crotchets and brackets to enclose a parenthesis.

An ellipsis † or omission of words, syllables, or letters, is indicated by various marks ; sometimes by a dash ; as, the k—g, for the king ; sometimes by asterisks or stars, like these, * * * * ; sometimes by hyphens, thus, - - - - ; sometimes by small dots or periods, like these :

The breve (thus ˘) is placed over a vowel to indicate its short sound ; as, St. Hélena.

The apostrophe ‡ is a comma placed above the line. It is used as the sign of the possessive case, and sometimes indicates the omission of a letter or several letters ; as, John's ; "'T is" for "it is" ; "tho'" for "though" ; "lov'd" for "loved" ; "I'll" for "I will."

The quotation marks, or inverted commas, as they are sometimes

* The word *hyphen* is derived from the Greek language, and signifies *under one, or together* ; and is used to imply that the words or syllables, between which it is placed, are to be taken *together* as one word.

† The word *ellipsis* is derived from the Greek language, and means *an omission*.

‡ The word *apostrophe* is derived from the Greek language, and signifies the *turning away, or omission, of one letter or more*.

The first word of an example, every substantative and principal word in the titles of books, and the first word of every line in poetry, should begin with a capital letter

The pronoun I, and the interjection O, are always written in capitals.

Any words, when remarkably emphatical, or when they are the principal subject of the composition, may begin with capitals.

Exercises.

when socrates Was Asked what Man Approached the Nearest to Perfect happiness, He answered, that man who Has The Fewest wants.

addison Has Remark'd, with Equal piety and truth, that the Creation is a Perpetual feast To the mind of a Good man.

diligence, industry, and Proper improvement Of time, Are Material duties of the Young; but the young Often Neglect These duties.

how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? till Seven Times?

but what Excuse can the englishman Plead? the custom Of duelling? how manv lessons are there in this book? are there More Than twenty-five?

why did You Not Arrive sooner? were you necessarily Detained?

daughter of faith, Awake! Arise! Illume
the Dread Unknown, The chaos of The tomb.

the lord My pasture Shall Prepare,
and Feed Me With A shepherd's care.

father of all in Every Age,
in Every Clime Adored,
by Saint, by savage, and By sage,
jehovah, jove, or lord

thou great first cause, least understood,
who All my Sense Confined (confinedst),
to Know But This, That thou Art good
and That myself Am Blind.

yet Gavest me In this Dark Estate, &c.

the language of Manv of the european nations was derived From the Ancient latin.

The english and french Fleets had a Severe Engagement.

i saw the dutch Ambassador in the Carriage of the spanish consul.

Always remember this Ancient maxim, Spoken by the greek philosopher: "Know thyself."

The christian lawgiver Says, "take up Thy Cross Daily and follow me." solomon observes, that "Pride goes Before Destruction."

johnson's dictionary has long been the standard of english orthography, but the work of doctor webster seems in a Fair way to Supplant It.

have you read rollin's ancient history.

thomson's seasons and cowper's task contain many Poetical Beauties.

i hope You will be able to Write Correctly All that i have Written.