

Lord Coke's rules, Co. Litt. 23, b. 24, are as follows, viz. " *First*, A person added to a person in the line of consanguinity, maketh a degree. And it is to be understood, that a line is threefold, viz. the line ascending; descending, and collateral: and first for example; of the ascending line, take the son and add the father, and it is one degree ascending; add the grand father to the father, and it is a second degree ascending. *Secondly*, so as how many persons there be, take away one, and you have the number of degrees. If there be four persons, it is the third degree, if five, the fourth; for one must exceed, and then you have the degree. Likewise by the descending, take the father and add the son, and it is one degree; then take the son and add the grand child, and it is the second degree; and so likewise further. Wherein observe, that the father, son and grand child, albeit there are three persons, yet they make but two degrees, because (as it hath been said) one must exceed for making a degree. *Thirdly*, it is to be noted, that in every line the person must be reckoned from whom the computation is made. And there is no difference between the canon and civil law, in the ascending and descending line; for those whom the civilians do reckon in the

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