

Morphology

Morphology is the study of how morphemes are put together. A morpheme is the smallest meaningful unit of language. Grammatical morphemes apply inflection that signals meaning to nouns, verbs, and adjectives.

Age	Grammatical Morphemes	Example
19 – 28 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Present progressive -ing 	crying
29 – 38 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Regular plural -s ◦ Present progressive -ing without auxiliary ◦ Semiauxiliaries ◦ Overgeneralization of past tense -ed ◦ Possessive -s ◦ Present tense auxiliary 	socks baby crying gonna, gotta, wanna I run ned . girl's hat can, will, be, do
39 – 42 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Past tense modals ◦ "Be" verb + present progressive -ing 	could, would, should, must, might The baby is crying.
43 – 46 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Regular past tense -ed ◦ Irregular past tense ◦ Regular third-person-singular, present tense ◦ Articles 	He kicked . She ate . He drinks . a boy, the tree
47 – 50 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Contractible auxiliary ◦ Uncontractible copula ◦ Uncontractible auxiliary ◦ Irregular third person singular ◦ Past tense "be" verb 	The boy's talking. It is big. He is swimming. She has it. She was dancing.

We'd like to thank the following sources from which we obtained information for this section: Bowen (http://members.tripod.com/Caroline_Bowen/?BrownsStages.htm); Brown (1973); Haskill, Tyler, & Tolbert (2001); and Retherford (2000). For more information, please see the full References, Websites, & Resources list on pages 22-24.