

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 ed . She ate . He drinks s . 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.