

Charting Noun Morphology and Syntax

A useful next step after lessons 1.2 and 1.3 is to have students come up with lists of the morphological and syntactic rules of and cues for nouns. Here's an example here (adapted from Dana Smith's high school English class).

NOUNS	
Morphological Clues	Syntactic Clues
<p>Can be plural:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -s -ies change of vowel (<i>mouse/mice</i>) -i (<i>octopi</i>) no change at all: (<i>deer, elk, moose</i>) <p>Can have certain suffixes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -er (<i>driver</i>) -ment (<i>excitement</i>) -ness (<i>happiness</i>) -ship (<i>friendship</i>) -ance (<i>importance</i>) -ion (<i>nation, mission</i>) -hood (<i>childhood</i>) <p>Can be made possessive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cat's tail Sue's friend umbrella's handle freedom's power 	<p>Appears after a Determiner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>the/a</i> <i>this/that</i> <i>these/those</i> <i>my/your/his/her/our/their</i> <p>Det + _____</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>the dog</i> <i>my house</i> <p>Appears after a Numeral:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cardinal: (<i>six, ten, two hundred</i>) or Ordinal (<i>first, fifth, tenth</i>) <p>NUM + _____</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>six dogs</i> <i>second place</i> <p>Appears after a Quantifier:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>all, each, every, both, some, several, many, few, more, much, less</i> <p>Q + _____</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>all dogs</i> <i>much water</i> <p>Can be modified by an Adjective (<i>tall, happy, green</i>)</p> <p>Adj + _____</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>(the) tall people</i> <i>(eight) green frogs</i>