Brown's Morphemes (Standard American English)

Stage	
Stage 1	Early uninflected semantic relations
Stage 2	Present progressive *-ing*
	in
	on
	Regular plural *-s*
	Negation *no, not, can't, don't* between subject and verb
	Semi-auxiliaries appear *gonna, wanna, gotta, hafta*
Stage 3	Irregular past tense, some overgeneralized past-tense forms appear
	Possessive *-'s*
	Uncontractible copula (verb *to be* as main verb)
	Present tense auxiliaries appear
Stage 4	Articles (*a, the*)
	Regular past tense *-ed*
	Regular third person, present tense *-s*
Stage 5	Irregular third person (*does, has*)
	Uncontractible auxiliary
	Contractible copula
	Contractible auxiliary
	Past tense auxiliaries

Morpho-Syntactic Features of AAE (African American English)

- Zero copula (or the deletion of the verb be and its variants)
- Absence of past tense *-ed*
- Absence of possessive *-'s*
- Irregular verb form usage (e.g., a past tense verb is used in place of a past participle and vice versa)
- Absence of plural *-s* (with nouns of measure)
- Negation: use of *ain't* and multiple negation
- Habitual (uninflected) *be*
- Zero modal auxiliary
- Two modal auxiliary verbs may be used in a single clause

Please refer to **aaclanguagelab.com** for references used in the creation of these charts.