

**TABLE 3.1**

Grammatical morphemes acquired in early childhood

Grammatical morpheme	Age (in months)	Example
Present progressive <i>-ing</i>	19–28	"Mommy eating"
Plural <i>-s</i>	27–30	"Baby shoes"
Preposition <i>in</i>	27–30	"Hat in box"
Preposition <i>on</i>	31–34	"Hat on chair"
Possessive <i>'s</i>	31–34	"Baby's ball"
Regular past tense <i>-ed</i>	43–46	"Kitty jumped."
Irregular past tense	43–46	"We ate."
Regular third person singular <i>-s</i>	43–46	"Mommy drives."
Articles <i>a, the, an</i>	43–46	"The car"
Contractible copula <i>be</i>	43–46	"She's happy."
Contractible auxiliary	47–50	"She's coming."
Uncontractible copula <i>be</i>	47–50	"We were here."
Uncontractible auxiliary	47–50	"She was coming."
Irregular third person	47–50	"She did it."

Source: Information from *A First Language: The Early Stages*, by R. Brown, 1973, Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.