

Southern Tutchone Noun Morphology  
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1.0 Noun stems that are "independent" or free occur in an unmarked form when they are uninflected for possession. When these alienable nouns are inflected for possession they take any possessive prefix /'a-/ and a possessive suffix /-ə?/. This is why noun stems with regular (i.e., "normal"), or unmarked vowel develop falling tone. Nouns beginning with certain unvoiced consonants develop voicing on the initial consonant.

bear	shar	dog	tł̥, -dl̥
duck	chàt	fish	lhú, -lù
gopher	tsal	house	kù
lake	man	person	dan
rabbit	gáh	songbird	tsûa, -dzûa
spring/stream	gəl	squirrel	dlùra
star	thèn ~ thèl	sun	sha, -zhâ
trout	met	quill	ch'äw
water	chu, -chù	whitefish	lhù, -lù

1.1 A possessive prefix and suffix mark the noun for possession. Nouns with a regular, unmarked vowel develop falling tone when a possessive prefix is used in front of the word.

dog	tł̥	Whose dog?	Ma dl̥?
my dog	á dl̥	our dog	dáh dl̥
your dog	in dl̥	your (pl) dog	dáh dl̥
her/his dog	u dl̥	their dog	ku dl̥
his/her own dog	da dl̥	their own dog	ke da dl̥

1.2 Compound noun stems and modifiers

ankle	a ke shan	back of hand	a la t'äy
back teeth	a mà tl'àat yù	berry juice	zhùr chù
forehead	a ts'a t'äy	Mallard duck	chàt shäw
Teal	chàt zhàta	gopher tail	tsal shè
grizzly	shar shäw	palm of hand	a la tl'äy
rabbit ears	gáh dzây	skinny dog	tł̥ gana
sheep hide	mäy dhùh	sole of foot	a ke tl'äy
top of foot	a ke t'äy	upper teeth	a ts'a yù

## 2.0 Noun stems for body parts are "dependent" or inalienable, i.e., mandatorily possessed

a head	a tthì	an eye	a nây
a neck	a k'u	an ear	a dzây
a knee	a gwàt	a nose	a tsí
a foot	a kè	a mouth	a dhê

### 2.1. Body parts that are formed by compounding

a toe	a ke-tth'äw	brain	a tthì-ghà
face hair	a daa-ghà	forehead	a ts'aa-t'äy
head hair	a tthì-ghà	shoulder	a gààn-shan
sole of foot	a ke-tl'äy	thumb	a laa-shùh

#### 2.1.1 Prefix / -yè- / that "pegs" another third person item

flesh, meat	a tthàn	fat, tallow	a k'a
his (own) flesh)	u tthàn	lard, grease	khe
his store meat	u yè tthàn	his store lard	u yè yè

## 2.2 Noun stems for kinship terms are "dependent" or inalienable

a mom	a mą	a dad	a tà
younger sister	a jùhgha	younger brother	a shala
older sister	a maata	older brother	a náya
gramma	a tsą	grampa	a tsia
mom's sister	a mąya	dad's sister	a mēa
mom's brother	a nuhgha	dad's brother	a tàya
mom's daughter	a ghaats'èa	dad's daughter	a tthea
mom's son	a ghara	dad's son	a yea

#### 2.2.1 Possessive (demonstrative) prefixes that are prefixed to nouns

1s my	á	1p our	dáh
2s your	in	2p your	dáh
3s her/his	u	3p their	ku

### 2.3 Question particles: ye "what," & ma "who."

what?	ye?	who?	ma?
it is?	ch'êw	is it?	naách'êw?
what is it?	ye ch'êw?	who is it?	ma ch'êw?
is it a dog?	tli naách'êw?	is it a wolf?	agäy naách'êw?

### 2.4 Question prefix / dà / in a verb means how, what or why.

How are you?	Dà-n-ch'e?	How many?	Dà-n-ch'e?
Q matter with him?	Dà-à-zhà?	What's the matter?	Dà-kwà-zhà?
How is it outside?	Dà-kwà-ch'e?	What's the news?	Dà-kwa-ni?

#### 2.4.1 Question verbs used in sentences

How are you today?	Dànch'êa ak'â dzénù?
I'm fine today.	Dízhàw ak'â dzénù.
What's the news; what are they saying?	Dàkwani kwanîw?
Nothing happening, they say.	Aju kwàzha kwani.

### 3.0 Stem and prefix nouns formed from various stems and descriptors

animal	ne-na	beach	ta-mày
caribou	ma-dzí	cow moose	da-ghar
dam	tsà kàdàkwadan'wàl	eagle	chù-näy
golden eye	a-tthè-k'i	kingfisher	tàa-ch'al
lookout	nàa-'i	lynx	nàa-däy
martin	nü-ch'i	mink	che-dhäw
moose	kha-näy	porcupine	da-ch'äw
puddle	chu daa-da-man	raven	ts'ur-k'i
red	da-t'al	river	tá-gà
sheep	(∅)-mây	sky	ya-t'äy
stick	da-chan	swan	da-gäy
waterfall	chu ts'a-nà-dà-lì	weasel	nu-mäya
whitefish	kwa-ts'a-khrua	wolf	a-gäy
wolverine	nàa-ghäy	yearling moose	chì-'ar

#### 4.0 Nouns formed from neutral verbs as a base

Abbreviations: IO stands for indirect object. PP stands for postposition. ADV normally stands for adverbial. DS stands for deictic subject. ASP stands for aspect. M/S stands for mode/subject.

	IO	PP	ADV		DS	ASP	M/S	STEM
<b>-CH'AL pull</b>								
nail puller (tùkhäy)			ñjè nàà	#		ts'a		ch'al
pliers	u	yè	kàà	#		ts'a		ch'al
<b>-DUH twist</b>								
screw (in)	u	yè	lha	#	kwa	ts'a	da	duh
screwdriver (unscrew)	u	yè	kaa	#	kwa	ts'a	da	duh
screwdriver (in), and drill	u	yè	kwa naa	#	kwa	ts'a	da	duh
<b>-DHÄW scrape</b>								
scraping skin/hide pole	u	yè		#	kwa	ts'a		dhäw
<b>-DZÈ pitch</b>								
pitch, tar	u	yè		#	kwa	ts'a		dzè
<b>-GHWÀW carve</b>								
carving knife (mur)	u	yè		#	kwa	ts'a		ghwàw
<b>-NAL pound</b>								
hammer	u	yè	kwa naa	#	kwa	ts'a	da	nal
wedge	u	yè	lhaa ts'aa	#		ts'a	da	nal
<b>-T'ÀW cut</b>								
tin snips (mezhan)	u	yè		#		ts'a		t'àw
wire cutter (mezhan tl'èl)	u	yè	lhaa nàà	#		ts'a	da	t'àw
scythe (tl'äw)	u	yè		#		ts'a		t'àw
paddle			tàà	#				t'àw
oarlock	u	t'ù		#	kwa	ts'a		t'àw
rudder (nààlàat)	u	yè	k'àà	#		ts'a	naa	t'àw
<b>-TL'ÛR move</b>								
water pump (chu)	u	yè	kaa	#		ts'a		tl'ùr
pocket knife			lha t'àà					tl'ùr-a