



# African-American Language (AAVE) Common Rules List

## Category: Sounds

Linguistic Feature	Example	Translation
1. /th/ Sound (digraphs)	<u>Dis</u> is my <u>mouf</u> .	<u>This</u> is my <u>mouth</u> .
2. Consonant Clusters	I put my <u>tes</u> on the <u>des</u> . It's <u>col</u> .	I put my <u>test</u> on the <u>desk</u> . It's <u>cold</u> .
3. Short /e/ and Short /i/ Vowel Pairs/ homophones	I am <u>tin</u> years old.	I am <u>ten</u> years old.
4. Syllable Stress Patterns	She stayed at a <u>hotel</u> .	She stayed at a <u>hot<u>el</u></u> .
5. The /R/ Sound a. Reflexive /r/ Sound b. /er/ Sound	<u>Yo sista</u> is <u>Ca'ol</u> .	<u>Your sister</u> is <u>Carol</u> .
6. The /L/ sound	I won a <u>mivon</u> in the lottery.	I won a <u>million</u> in the lottery.
7. Inflectional Ending "ing"	They are <u>runnin</u> very fast.	They are <u>running</u> very fast.

## Category: Markers (Morphemes)

Linguistic Feature	Example	Translation
8. The Past Tense Marker "ed"	My mother <u>cook</u> dinner last night.	My mother <u>cooked</u> dinner last night.
9. Plural Marker	She spent 35 <u>cent</u> .	She spent 35 <u>cents</u> .
10. Possessive Marker	That is <u>Carla</u> car.	That is <u>Carla's</u> car.

## Category: Syntax

Linguistic Feature	Example	Translation
11. Multiple Negation	He <u>don't</u> have <u>no</u> friends.	He <u>doesn't</u> have <u>any</u> friends.
12. Present Tense Copula Verb	The cat in the tree.	The cat <u>is</u> in the tree.
13. Topicalization	That <u>boy he</u> funny.	That <u>boy, Jared, is</u> funny.
14. Habitual Be (Meaning usually)	My mother <u>be</u> at home.	My mother <u>is usually</u> at home.
15. The use of "go" as copula verb	There he <u>go</u> .	There he <u>is</u> .
16. First Person Future	I'm <u>gonna</u> wash the car.	I'm <u>going</u> to wash the car.

## Category: Regularized Patterns

Linguistic Feature	Example	Translation
17. Indefinite Article "a/an"	She has a <u>umbrella</u> .	She has <u>an umbrella</u> .
18. Third Person Singular	Miles <u>swim</u> everyday	Miles <u>swims</u> everyday.
19. Past Tense Auxiliary Verb	We <u>was</u> in the classroom.	We <u>were</u> in the classroom.
20. Reflexive Pronoun	He drove <u>hisself</u> to the hospital.	He drove <u>himself</u> to the hospital.
21. Demonstrative Pronoun	I see <u>dem</u> children.	I see <u>those</u> children.