



Mexican-American Language (Chicano English) Common Rules List

Category: Sounds		
Linguistic Feature	Example	Translation
1. /th/ Sound (digraphs)	<u>Dis</u> teacher is mean.	<u>This</u> teacher is mean.
2. Consonant Clusters	She <u>don' mine</u> if you talk.	She <u>doesn't mind</u> if you talk.
3. Short /e/ and Short /i/ Vowel Pairs/ homophones	Do you have a <u>pin</u> ?	Do you have a <u>pen</u> ?
4. Stress Patterns	I get paid <u>today</u> .	I get paid <u>today</u> .
5. "Z" Sound	<u>Race</u> the flag!	<u>Raise</u> the flag!
6. "V" Sound	The firemen saved many <u>lifes</u> .	The firemen saved many <u>lives</u> .
7. Circumflex Intonation	<u>Doont</u> be <u>baaad</u> .	<u>Don't</u> be <u>bad</u> .
8. Breath H (Nahuatl influenced)	Miguel wore a <u>hwite</u> hat.	Miguel wore a <u>white</u> hat.
Category: Markers (Morphemes)		
Linguistic Feature	Example	Translation
9. The Past Tense Marker "ed"	Yesterday, he <u>start</u> selling newspapers.	Yesterday, he <u>started</u> selling newspapers.
10. Pluralization	He went to one of the <u>college</u> .	He went to one of the <u>colleges</u> .
11. Changing "Thee/ Thuh" Rule	<u>Thuh</u> apple is in <u>thee</u> basket.	<u>The</u> apple is in <u>the</u> basket.
Category: Syntax		
Linguistic Feature	Example	Translation
12. Multiple Negation	He <u>don't</u> have <u>no</u> friends.	He <u>doesn't</u> have <u>any</u> friends.
13. Present Tense Copula Verb	This ... a school.	This <u>is a</u> school.
14. Intensifiers	Mom was <u>all</u> lost on the way to my Tia's. This game is new, it <u>barely</u> came out.	Mom was <u>very</u> lost on the way to my Tia's. This game is new, it <u>just</u> came out.
15. Topicalization	My <u>brother he's</u> going to the movies.	My <u>brother is</u> going to the movies.
16. Prepositional Variation	He was sitting <u>in</u> the couch. The Pharaohs were the kings <u>in</u> Egypt.	He was sitting <u>on</u> the couch. The Pharaohs were the kings <u>of</u> Egypt.
17. Prepositional Variation	There's a big tree with leaves on <u>them</u> .	There's a big tree with leaves on <u>it</u> .
18. Subject Variation	<u>Is</u> washing <u>his</u> hair.	<u>He</u> is washing <u>his</u> hair.
Category: Regularized Patterns		
Linguistic Feature	Example	Translation
19. Indefinite Article	She has a <u>umbrella</u> .	She has <u>an</u> umbrella.
20. Third Person Singular	He <u>jump</u> rope to get into shape.	He <u>jumps</u> rope to get into shape.
21. Past Tense Auxiliary Verb	We <u>was</u> driving down the street.	We <u>were</u> driving down the street.
22. Reflexive Pronoun	Now they can do it by <u>theirselves</u> .	Now they can do it by <u>themselves</u> .