

Section II. The Noun

The prefixes and suffixes which can occur with nouns in Cherokee are discussed in II-A and II-B. Section II-C deals with the possessed nouns, nouns which always refer explicitly to a possessor. Section II-D is a brief discussion of compound nouns, and Section II-E lists some of the more important kinds of nouns derived from verbs in Cherokee.

II-A. Noun prefixesdi-, plural

form: di- before a following consonant, j- before a vowel, d- before -u- in some non-possessed nouns; cf. (1-3).

- (1) a. ka²ne¹sa³?i "box"
 b. di²ka²ne¹sa³?i "boxes"
- (2) a. u²we²³ji "egg"
 b. ju²we²³ji "eggs"
- (3) a. u¹da²ne²hv⁴?i "puddle"
 b. du¹da²ne²hv⁴?i "puddles"

function: di- marks the plural of some inanimate nouns in Cherokee. Many nouns referring to inanimate objects do not mark the plural, however; compare (4-5).

- (4) a. ka²ne¹sa³?i ji²gowh¹ti³ha. "I see a box."
 b. di²ka²ne¹sa³?i de²³ji³gowh¹ti³ha. "I see boxes."
- (5) a. gu¹gu ji²gowh¹ti³ha. "I see a bottle."

