Assignment 3

1. The possessive morpheme in English

In English, possession is marked by a suffix on nouns:

- the baby's crib
- some dog's bone

This suffix is conventionally spelled 's. The first part of this problem is to determine what allomorphs this suffix has, and what their phonological shapes are. To this end,

1a. First write phonological representations, using the phonemic notation presented in class, for the following nouns and their possessives:

- baby /ˈbeɪbi/ baby's /ˈbeɪbi ˈɛz/
- dog /dɒg/ dog's /ˈdɒg ˈɛz/
- cat /kæt/ cat's /kæts/ 
- chipmunk /ˈtʃɪpmʌŋk/ chipmunk's /ˈtʃɪpmʌŋk ˈɛz/
- horse /hɔr/ horse's /hoʊrs/ 
- judge /dʒud/ judge's /dʒuːdʒ/ 
- church /tʃɜrʃ/ church's /tʃɜrʃ ˈɛz/
- flea /fliː/ flea's /fliː ˈɛz/
- love /lʌv/ love's /lʌv ˈɛz/
- trash /træʃ/ trash's /træʃ ˈɛz/
- thief /θiːf/ thief's /θiːf ˈɛz/
- bath /bæθ/ bath's /bæθ ˈɛz/
- lathe /ˈleɪθ/ lathe's /ˈleɪθ ˈɛz/

Example:

crown /ˈkraʊn/ crown's /ˈkraʊnz/ 

If you don't know how to pronounce a word, you can ask somebody or look it up.

1b. Now identify all the allomorphs of the possessive morpheme, giving their phonological shapes.

1c. Finally, state as succinctly as you can the rules of allomorphy, giving a precise description of the phonological environment in which each allomorph is found.
2. Another English Example

All of the following English words can be divided into morphemes.

option  dismission  invasion  adhesion
action  obsession  persuasion  flexion
delineation  expression  erosion
sedation  discussion  dispersion

2a. First write the words in the phonemic notation presented in class.

2b. Divide the words into morphemes.

2c. Write the Word Formation Rule involved in these words.

2d. Describe the allomorphy as well as you can, and write the rules of allomorphy.

There is more than one way to do this.