

Problem #3. Rules:

1. Adjectives follow their nouns.
2. A noun (or the adjective if there is one) gets the marker -é, unless it is inalienably possessed (body part, kinship term); in the latter case it is preceded by the possessor.
3. Alienable possession is expressed by á between the possessor and the possessed.
4. In compound nouns the last syllable has low tone (“˘”).

- (a) mÙsúé á gbòmùé: the woman’s fish
 léj kÙndúé á nyÌmìé: the short child’s snake
 gbòmù-lèndé kÙndúé: the short boat
- (b) kÙndò-lèndé lòdé: the small airplane
- (c) the eagle’s snake: kÙánjàé á nyÌmìé
 the small child’s eye: léj lòdé já
 the tall man’s sister: kái jàdjé lòd-mÙsù
 the small baby-snake: nyÌmì-léj lòdé

Problem #4. In compound nouns the left-hand part modifies the right-hand one. A noun gets the ending -tl/li unless it has one of the suffixes -capil (dimin.), -huah ‘one who has ...’, -tlah/lah ‘place of many ...’, or -tzintli ‘revered ...’ (-li and -lah after l, otherwise -tl and -tlah).

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|-----|---|---|----------------------------------|
| (a) | a-cal-huah | canoe owner (<i>a-cal-li</i> canoe, “water house”) | |
| | a-chil-li | water pepper | |
| | a-tl | water | |
| | cal-lah | village | |
| | cal-huah | master of house | |
| | chil-a-tl | chili water | |
| | chil-li | chili | |
| | col-li | grandfather/ancestor | |
| | col-tzintli | revered grandfather/ancestor | |
| | cone-huah | mother, “one who has child(ren)” | |
| | cone-huah-capil | mom(my) | |
| | cone-tl | child | |
| | oquich-cone-tl | boy, male child | |
| | oquich-huah | wife, “one who has a husband” | |
| | oquich-totol-tzintli | revered turkey-cock | |
| | te-huah | possessor of stones | |
| | te-tlah | stony ground | |
| | totol-te-tl | turkey egg | |
| (b) | house: <i>calli</i> | stone: <i>tetl</i> | possessor of water: <i>ahuah</i> |
| | revered man/husband: <i>oquichtzintli</i> | | |
| (c) | cacahua-tl: cocoa | | cacahua-te-tl: cocoa bean |
| | cacahua-a-tl: cocoa drink | | cacahua-huah: possessor of cocoa |