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## Synopsis: Number in Kiowa by Wonderly, Kirk and Gibson

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SYNOPSIS OF NUMBER IN KIOWA BY WONDERLY, KIRK AND GIBSON  
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Instead of being basically singular, Kiowa nouns are basically 'one-or-two', 'two', 'two-or-more', or 'unnumbered'.

A reversing suffix -gaw changes 'one-or-two' to 'more-than-two', 'two' to 'more-or-less-than-two', and 'two-or-more' to 'one'. It does not occur with the unnumbered class.

In the following illustrations, English words are used for the Kiowa word, and the Kiowa affixes are written as they sound to English speakers.

Class One-or-two: cow 'one-or-two cows', cow-gaw 'more than two cows'.

Class Two: apple 'two apples', apple-gaw 'more-or-less-than-two apples'.

Class Two-or-more: ribbon 'two-or-more-ribbons', ribbon-gaw 'one ribbon'.

Class unnumbered: dress.

Certain adjectives also have two different forms for marking different number. The word meaning 'big' has a 'two-or-more' form bin and a 'one' form el. When adjectives of this class occur following nouns they eliminate some, but not all, ambiguities in number.

cow bin (two) 'big cows'

cow el (one) 'big cow'

cow bin-gaw (more-than-two) 'big cows'

apple bin (two) 'big apples'

apple el-gaw (one) 'big apple'

apple bin-gaw (more-than-two) 'big apples'

ribbon bin (two-or-more) 'big ribbons'

ribbon el-gaw (one) 'big ribbon'

dress bin (two-or-more) 'big dresses'

dress el (one) 'big dress'

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\* Abstracted from: Wonderly, William L., Gibson, Lorna F., and Kirk, Paul L. "Number in Kiowa: Nouns, Demonstratives, and Adjectives," International Journal of American Linguistics, XX (1954), 1-7. Reprinted in Reprints II, Article 12.