Nominal Morphology Worksheet

This is to get a sense of how nouns work in your language. Note that for your language, you have to have at least TWO of the following: (1) nouns that distinguish at least singular and plural; (2) a composite case system; and/or (3) a gender system. It does not need to have all three.

Sample Nouns

To get started, list some of the nouns you have in the following categories: (1) 5 nouns for human beings; (2) 5 nouns for animals; (3) 5 nouns for inanimate objects that can be held in one or two hands; (4) 5 nouns for large inanimate objects; (5) 5 mass nouns; (6) 5 other nouns (in particular those that might illustrate some sort of interesting morpho-phonological pattern that isn't covered by the other 25). Just list citation forms; don't worry about anything else at this point.

Basics

Does your language distinguish nominal number? If so, which numbers?

Does your language have a gender system? If so, what are the genders, and are they reified on the noun, or elsewhere?

Does your language have a case system? If so, what cases are there? Does your case system interact crucially with either gender or number or both? If so, which?

Nominal Number

How does your language express nouns of different numbers? At some point, it will simply need to use a numeral (you don't need to state the numeral; just say "numeral + plural noun" or "numeral + genitive singular", or whatever it is), but it may also use morphology. Show me two different nouns (from two different paradigms, if you have them) and how they reify the following numbers:

Singular		
Two Ns		
Three Ns		
Plural Ns:		

Use the following space to illustrate anything we missed for nominal number. Does your language have a paucal? A collective? A singular? If your language has none of these things, and the table above covers it, show me how you distinguish mass nouns from count nouns below

Nominal Case

If your language has composite case forms, list all of them (in however many declensions you have) below:

In either case, answer each of the questions below:

- ‣ What case/form is used for the object of a transitive verb?
- ‣ What case/form is used for the subject of a transitive verb?
- ‣ What case/form is used for indirect objects?
- ‣ What case/form is used for a nominal possessor?
- ‣ What case/form is used for a nominal possessee?

Nominal Gender

Give examples of a noun in each gender below, along with all forms that differ based on gender (note: if we've seen them all of them already, state which section/lexemes):

Modifiers

What's the order of noun and modifier? Give some examples of demonstrative and adjectival modifiers here (note: if your adjectival modifiers are going to be verbal, skip the adjectival modifier portion of this assignment—but do talk about demonstratives!):