Konkow is synthetic in structure and agglutinative in technique. The grammatical processes, in descending order of importance, are: suffixation; prefixation; compounding (particularly with nouns); reduplication (both partial and complete with the reduplicative prefix to the stem), almost always associated with distributive, reciprocal or iterative meaning; vowel and consonant ablaut (both rare), neither of which seems to be productive any longer. The morphophonemic processes include: vowel harmony (particularly in the environment of velar stops); loss of glottalization in stops; reduction of long vowels; limited free variation of h with ʔ; consonant epenthesis (rare). The phonology of the word may be determined by the allophony of the phoneme m.

The form-classes are: verbs, nouns, adjectives (which may ultimately be analyzed as a sub-class of nouns), adverbs, uninflected postpositions and particles. The predominant morphemic canon appears to be CV or CVC. Most stems are not restricted to rigid form-class membership but may occur as nominal or verbal bases. One of the more striking features of morphological construction is the frequent use of prefixes with instrumental meaning in conjunction with stems indicative of general types of action. Another unique prefix type co-occurs with color terms.

Compound nouns are readily constructed with the normal order being attribute plus head. Nominal derivation is largely limited to a few agentive and qualitative suffixes. The sole obligatory inflectional category is case (9-10) which governs various syntactic relations between other nouns and verbs. Nouns are divided into alienably and inalienably (the latter consisting almost wholly of kinship terms) possessed classes. Number is overtly marked only with a small number of nouns with human reference and seems to function rather as a collective. Pronouns configure as a sub-class of nouns. They may be divided into three types: dependent, functioning as subject and suffixed to verbs, and prefixed to inalienably-possessed nouns; independent, occurring as free forms; and free-form demonstratives. The first two occur in the first, second and third persons and are obligatorily inflected for case and number (singular, dual and plural).
The allomorphy of the dependent pronouns is complex, the occurrence of a given allomorph being determined by the mode, tense and aspect of the verb. Demonstratives are inflected as nouns. There are four types: three indicate relative degrees of visible proximity to the speaker and the fourth is used as a demonstrative of general, indefinite or anaphoric reference.

Both derivationally and inflectionally, verbs are more complex than nouns. Verbal compounds may consist of attribute plus head or head plus attribute. Verbs fall into two general classes, motion and state or quality. The first class occurs with directional suffixes which often bear the major part of the lexical burden. The second class includes verbs having locative or adjectival meaning. The directional suffixes comprise the bulk of verbal derivation. The causative is the most productive suffix but there are a number of others with transitive, distributive, iterative or reciprocal meaning which are of relatively frequent occurrence. Verbs are inflected for: first, second and third person; singular, dual and plural number; tense; aspect; mode; evidentials; and negation.

Adverbs are determined by a characteristic suffix.