A new procedure for the classification of lower case English language characters is presented in this work. The character image is binarised and the binary image is further grouped into sixteen smaller areas, called Cells. Each cell is assigned a name depending upon the contour present in the cell and occupancy of the image contour in the cell. A data reduction procedure called Filtering is adopted to eliminate undesirable redundant information for reducing complexity during further processing steps. The filtered data is fed into a primitive extractor where extraction of primitives is done. Syntactic methods are employed for the classification of the character. A decision tree is used for the interaction of the various components in the scheme, like the primitive extraction and character recognition. A character is recognized by the primitive by primitive construction of its description. Openended inventories are used for including variants of the characters and also adding new members to the general class. Computer implementation of the proposal is discussed at the end using handwritten character samples. Results are analyzed and suggestions for future studies are made. The advantages of the proposal are discussed in detail.