

Rainbow Grammar Colours: Quick Guide

	Colour	Example	Description
Main clause	Subject	The monster screamed in the attic. The children cried all night.	The subject tells us <i>who</i> or <i>what</i> a clause is about and perform the action in a clause. Only subjects in the main clause only are coloured green.
	Predicate	The monster screamed in the attic . Angrily , the monster screamed in the attic . The children cried all night . All night , the children cried .	The predicate tells us what the subject did or what happened to the subject. Only predicates in the main clause are coloured orange. They always contain a verb but might also have adverbials which tell us <i>when</i> , <i>where</i> or <i>how</i> the verb was performed. These adverbials can be moved to the front of the clause to become fronted adverbials.
	Stop	The monster screamed loudly in the attic! The children cried all night.	The stop ends a sentence. The most common way of stopping is with a full stop, but question marks and exclamations are useful too.
	Direct Speech	"I want my Teddy! " the monster screamed. " The monster will eat us! " the children wailed.	Direct speech indicates when someone is speaking. It is surrounded by inverted commas (speech marks).
	Connecting Adverb	The monster screamed in the attic. Therefore , the children cried all night.	A connecting adverb links a sentence to the one that came before.
Subordinate Clauses	Adverbial Clause	The monster screamed because he wanted his teddy . Whenever they heard a noise, the children cried.	An adverbial clause joins a second idea to a sentence. This second idea adds more information about the verb in the main clause. An adverbial clause can be moved around in a sentence and begins with a subordinating conjunction.
	Participle Clause	Waking everyone up , the monster screamed. The children cried all night, terrified by the strange noises .	An edingto (or non-finite) clause joins a second idea to a sentence. It begins with an -ed (<i>confused</i>), -ing (<i>smiling</i>) or to- (<i>to fetch</i>) verb. It can be moved in a sentence.
	Relative Clause	The monster, who was afraid of the dark , screamed. The children hid under the covers, where they trembled with fear .	A relative clause describes the noun phrase that precedes it. It begins with a relative pronoun (although this is sometimes omitted) and cannot be moved.

© Jason Wade Education Ltd, 2015

The content of this document may be reproduced free of charge by John Blow Primary School, Nottinghamshire, for non-commercial use provided that the material is acknowledged as copyright of Jason Wade Education Ltd, and it is reproduced accurately including all logos of the copyright owner. The content may not be published online, used for any promotional or commercial purpose of the school and copies (including electronic copies) may not be distributed beyond the school, offered for sale, sold, hired or be shown to fee paying audiences.

Organisers Progression

	Linking	Joining			
	Connecting Adverbs	Conjunctions		Relative Pronouns	Prepositions
		Coordinating	Subordinating		
R		and			behind, in, in front of, next to, on, off, under, with
Y1		but			above, after, against, at, below, before, between, inside, near, outside
Y2		or so	because if when		across, along, around, down, from, into, onto, over, past, through, to, up
Y3	next now soon then		as after although before while		among, beneath, beside, beyond, by, during, for, like, throughout, until
Y4	also finally however meanwhile	yet	as soon as by the time just as so that		adjacent, despite, except, of, opposite, since, toward, upon, within, without
Y5	besides for example in fact similarly still therefore		as even though now that unless until whenever wherever	that when where which who whose	
Y6	consequently furthermore instead nonetheless overall subsequently		in case once provided that since whereas		

Punctuation Progression

Reception

	full stop	to complete a sentence	<i>The alien chased James.</i>
--	-----------	------------------------	--------------------------------

Year 1

	capital letter	to start a sentence	<i>The alien chased James.</i>
--	----------------	---------------------	--------------------------------

		for proper nouns (people)	<i>The alien chased James.</i>
--	--	---------------------------	--------------------------------

		for personal pronoun I	<i>I watched.</i>
--	--	------------------------	-------------------

	full stop	to complete a sentence	<i>The alien chased James.</i>
--	-----------	------------------------	--------------------------------

	exclamation mark	to indicate an exclamation	<i>The alien ran faster!</i>
--	------------------	----------------------------	------------------------------

	question mark	to complete a question	<i>Where could James hide?</i>
--	---------------	------------------------	--------------------------------

	apostrophe	for omission	<i>James couldn't escape.</i>
--	------------	--------------	-------------------------------

Year 2

	capital letter	for proper nouns (places)	<i>The alien chased James along Acacia Avenue.</i>
--	----------------	---------------------------	----------------------------------------------------

	comma	in a noun list	<i>The alien chased James, John and Josh.</i>
--	-------	----------------	-----------------------------------------------

		in an adjective list	<i>The hungry, drooling alien chased James.</i>
--	--	----------------------	-------------------------------------------------

	apostrophe	to mark singular possession	<i>The alien's jaws snapped dangerously.</i>
--	------------	-----------------------------	----------------------------------------------

Year 3

	inverted commas	to indicate dialogue	<i>"I'll gobble you up" yelled the alien.</i>
--	-----------------	----------------------	-----------------------------------------------

	comma	in a verb list	<i>The alien chased James, caught him and ate him.</i>
--	-------	----------------	--------------------------------------------------------

		after a fronted adverbial	<i>All night, the alien chased James.</i>
--	--	---------------------------	-------------------------------------------

		after a fronted subord. clause	<i>When the alien caught James, it ate him.</i>
--	--	--------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------

	apostrophe	to mark plural possession	<i>The aliens' jaws snapped dangerously.</i>
--	------------	---------------------------	----------------------------------------------

Year 4

	capital letter	to begin dialogue	<i>James muttered, "What is that thing?"</i>
--	----------------	-------------------	----------------------------------------------

		for brands & titles	<i>Ferrari The Gruffalo Star Wars</i>
--	--	---------------------	---------------------------------------

	exclamation mark	to conclude dialogue	<i>"I'll gobble you up!" yelled the alien.</i>
--	------------------	----------------------	------------------------------------------------

	question mark		<i>"What will I do?" James wailed.</i>
--	---------------	--	----------------------------------------

	full stop		<i>"I have an idea."</i>
--	-----------	--	--------------------------

	comma		<i>"I shall hide in that cave," he declared.</i>
--	-------	--	--------------------------------------------------

	comma	between coordinated sentences	<i>The alien chased James, but James ran.</i>
--	-------	-------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------

Punctuation Progression

Year 5

,	comma	for embedded clauses	<i>The alien, who liked eating children, chased James. The alien, drooling hungrily, opened its jaws.</i>
,	comma	for final clauses	<i>The alien ate the children, who tasted like chicken. It swallowed them whole, crunching on their bones.</i>
,	comma	before questions tags	<i>The alien wouldn't eat Jo too, would it?</i>
...	ellipsis	to show incompleteness	<i>The alien caught James, open it's jaws and...</i>
;	semi-colon	between coordinated sentences	<i>The alien chased James; James ran into a cave.</i>
()	brackets	for parenthesis	<i>The alien (who liked eating children) chased James.</i>
-	dash	for parenthesis	<i>The alien – who liked eating children – chased James.</i>
•	bullet point	to demarcate a list	<i>Aliens eat</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>small boys</i> • <i>small girls</i> • <i>cupcakes.</i>

Year 6

,	comma	to replace 'and'	<i>Jim fled through Green Park, along Devil's Lane, into Grimly woods.</i>
-	hyphen	to avoid ambiguity	<i>The boy-eating alien roared.</i>
;	semi-colon	between coordinated sentences	<i>The alien chased James; thus, James ran into a cave.</i>
;	semi-colon	in a complex list	<i>The alien had huge, hairy nostrils; green, red and purple eyes; and hair like moss.</i>
;	semi-colon	in a bulleted list	<i>Aliens eat:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>small boys;</i> • <i>small girls;</i> • <i>cupcakes.</i>
:	colon	to introduce a list	<i>Aliens like to: chase little boys, eat little boys and crochet.</i> <i>Aliens eat:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>small boys;</i> • <i>small girls;</i> • <i>cupcakes.</i>
:	colon	to introduce information that expands / illustrates	<i>The alien was hungry: it salivated greedily.</i>
<i>Abc</i>	italics	for internal thoughts	<i>Jim cowered. It will find me. It always finds me. He held his breath and waited.</i>