


A Quick Guide to Rainbow Grammar

Colour	Example	Description
Subject (Green)	The monster <u>screamed</u> in the attic. The children <u>cried</u> all night.	A subject tells us who or what the sentence is about and performs the verb in the sentence. There may be more than one subject in a sentence but the main one is coloured green.
Predicate (Orange)	The monster <u>screamed in the attic</u> . The children <u>cried all night</u> .	The predicate tells us what the subject did or what happened to the subject. They always contain a verb, which is always underlined, and may also include adverbials which describe when, where or how the verb is performed.
Stop (Red)	Why did the monster <u>scream</u> in the attic? The monster <u>screamed</u> ! The children <u>cried</u> all night.	The stop completes the sentence. Full stops, exclamation marks and question marks are all used as stops.
Speech (Yellow)	" <u>I want my teddy!</u> " the monster <u>screamed</u> .	Direct speech is surrounded by inverted commas.
Fronted Adverbial	<u>Suddenly</u> , the monster <u>screamed</u> , " <u>I want my teddy!</u> "	A fronted adverbial is an adverb, adverbial phrase or adverbial clause placed at the start of a sentence. It is followed by a comma.
Adverbial Clause (Dark blue)	The monster <u>screamed</u> <u>because he wanted his teddy</u> . <u>When they heard the noise</u> , the children <u>cried</u> .	An adverbial clause adds an additional idea to a sentence. The idea adds more information about the verb in the main part of the sentence. An adverbial clause can be moved around in a sentence and begins with a subordinating conjunction (because, although, if, while, when, as, once).

Non-finite Clause (Light blue)	<p><u>Waking everyone up</u>, the monster <u>screamed</u>.</p> <p>The children <u>cried</u> all night, <u>terrified by the strange noises</u>.</p>	<p>A non-finite clause adds an additional idea to a sentence. This second idea adds more information about the subject in the main clause. It begins with an -ed (terrified) or -ing (waking) verb. It can be moved in a sentence.</p>
Relative Clause (Purple)	<p>The monster, <u>who was afraid of the dark</u>, <u>screamed</u>.</p> <p>The children <u>hid</u> under the covers, <u>where they trembled with fear</u>.</p>	<p>A relative clause describes the noun or noun phrase that precedes it. It begins with a relative pronoun (that, where, which, who, whose), which is sometimes omitted. A relative clause cannot be moved.</p>
Linking Adverb (Pink)	<p>The monster <u>screamed</u> in the attic. Therefore, the children <u>cried</u> all night.</p>	<p>A linking adverb (therefore, however, meanwhile, next, then, nonetheless) links a sentence to the one that came before.</p>
Appositive (Silver)	<p>The monster, <u>a friendly beast</u>, <u>enjoyed playing</u> with his friends.</p>	<p>An appositive is a noun phrase that explains or expands upon another noun phrase.</p>
Coordinating Conjunction 	<p>Coordinating conjunctions can join:</p> <p>Words The monster <u>ate</u> chips <u>and</u> broccoli.</p> <p>Phrases The monster <u>crept</u> under the bridge <u>and</u> down the lane.</p> <p>Clauses The monster <u>wanted</u> to sleep <u>but</u> the children <u>wanted</u> to play.</p>	<p>Coordinating conjunctions:</p> <p>and but or so yet</p>