



Rainbow Grammar: A guide for parents.

Muskham Primary School
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What is grammar?

Grammar is the rules that we follow and teach the children so that they can write correctly. Grammar rules set out what you can and cannot do when writing English. Children need to learn these rules and build upon them as they progress through school.

What is Rainbow Grammar?

At Muskham, we use a system of colours, which help teach the children how to use grammar correctly. These colours help children recognise and learn different sentence structures that they can use.

When learning grammar, children are encouraged to write on coloured strips to create their sentences; and underline the different parts of their sentences in pencil crayons in their books.

The structure of Rainbow Grammar.

✚ The first colour is **green**. This is taught from Foundation/Year1.

Green is the subject. It tells us who or what the sentence is about.

The monster screamed in the library.

The apple is on the table.

We can add adjectives to it to make it a noun phrase:

The fast, blue car

Fluffy brown hens

We can also add a determiner, such as some, those, my, Bill's:

Some big, lazy elephants

My scary monster

Bill's towering inferno

✚ The second colour is **orange**. This is taught from Foundation/Year1.

Orange is the predicate. The predicate tells us what the subject did or what happened to the subject. The predicate always contains a verb.

The monster **screamed in the library**.

The apple **is on the table**.

The predicate can also contain adverbials which tell us *when, where* or *how* the verb was performed. These adverbials can be moved to the front of the clause to become a fronted adverbial.

At the weekend, the monster **screamed in the library**.

Angrily, the monster **screamed in the library**.

✚ The next colour is **red**. This is taught from Foundation/Year1.

Red indicates the END of a sentence (not just any punctuation!). The most common way of stopping is with a full stop, but question marks and exclamation marks are useful too.

The monster **screamed in the library**.

The apple **is on the table**.

✚ The fourth colour is **yellow**. This is taught from Year 2.

Yellow is speech. Speech indicates when someone is speaking and is surrounded by inverted commas (speech marks).

"These hamsters taste like chicken," the monster said.

"It's late!" said Cinderella. "I must leave before midnight!"

✚ The next colour is dark blue. This is taught from Year 2.

Dark blue is an adverbial clause. An adverbial clause joins a second idea to a sentence. This second idea adds more information about the verb in the main clause. It can be moved around in a sentence and begins with a subordinating conjunction, such as: after, although, as, as soon as, because, before, by the time, even though, if, in case, just as, now that, once, provided that, since, so that, unless, until, when, whenever, whereas, wherever, while.

The monster screamed because he wanted his teddy.

Jim's dog barked whenever it saw a cat.

Whenever they heard a noise, the children cried.

✚ The next colour is pink. This is taught from Year 3.

Pink is a linking adverb. A linking adverb links a sentence to the one that came before it.

Also, besides, consequently, finally, for example, furthermore, however, in fact, instead, meanwhile, next, nonetheless, now, overall, similarly, soon, subsequently, still, then, therefore.

The weather was cold outside. Therefore, Bill put on a coat.

Jim's monster ate a small frog. Consequently, he was still hungry.

✚ The seventh colour is light blue. This is taught in Year 3.

Light blue is a non-finite clause. A non-finite clause joins a second idea to a sentence. It begins with an -ed (confused), -ing (smiling) or to- (to fetch) verb. It can be moved in a sentence.

Waking everyone up, the monster screamed.

To satisfy its hunger, the monster ate a burger.

The children sang all night, smiling at the thought of the holiday.

⬇ The final colour is purple. This is taught in Year 5.

Purple is a relative clause. A relative clause describes the noun phrase that precedes it and begins with a relative pronoun - that, where, which, who, whose.

The monster, who was afraid of the dark, roared.

Bill's friend, whose name we do not know, kicked a football through the window.

The children hid under the covers, where they trembled with fear.