

Rainbow grammar guide for parents

Simple sentence

Subject predicate full stop

The dog ran.

Compound sentence

Subject predicate co-ordinating conjunction subject predicate full stop

Co-ordinating conjunctions: but, or, yet, so

It rained today yet the sun shone.

Fronted adverbials

Fronted adverbial, subject predicate full stop

Fronted adverbials can tell us when, how or where

In the morning, the sun rose.

Slowly, the girl trudged to school.

On the playground, the children played.

Subordinate clauses

Adverbial clauses

Subject predicate, adverbial clause full stop

Adverbial clauses begin with a subordinating conjunction:

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

They danced in the moonlight, as the stars glistened in the sky.

Relative clause

Subject, relative clause, predicate full stop

Relative clauses start with relative pronouns: who, that, which

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

Non-finites

Non-finite, subject predicate full stop

Non-finites can either be –ing words or –ed words:

Amazed, amused, astounded, pleased, relaxed, relieved, exasperated, fatigued, frightened

Running, panicking, screaming, howling, shouting, jumping, dancing, flying.

Dazed, she wondered what had happened.