

A Word about Multisensory Grammar

Multisensory Grammar is an instructional approach that uses a color-coding system and hands-on manipulatives to teach students about the functions of the nine parts of speech. Each part of speech is introduced and defined using a color that symbolizes its function within a sentence. Teachers can highlight a part of speech within a sentence by placing a colored marker underneath the word(s) that is the focus for instruction. As the different parts of speech are introduced or reviewed, teachers can guide students to see the patterns that are formed in various sentence constructions. Multisensory grammar is especially helpful when teaching students how to combine sentences and to create simple, compound, and complex sentences.

Multisensory grammar becomes interactive when teachers provide students with colored foam squares representing the different parts of speech and cards featuring various sentence patterns. Refer to the teacher-made video and article on the Scholastic web site for additional information:

http://blogs.scholastic.com/6_8/2009/02/multisensory-grammar.html. See if you can identify the different parts of speech from this excerpt from Mo Willems' *Knuffle Bunny Free: An Unexpected Diversion*. Check yourself using the table on the following page.

One day, not so long ago, Trixie took a big trip with her family.



The Everyday Editing Invitations developed for district language arts teachers incorporate the color-coding system from multisensory grammar. Teachers can enhance the teaching of written conventions and grammar by familiarizing themselves with the color-coding system and the Multisensory Grammar PowerPoint slides designed to introduce the different parts of speech. All materials are located on the grade-level Everyday Editing Invitations intranet site.



Multisensory Grammar Color-Coding System

Part of Speech	Color	Key Points
Nouns	Yellow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nouns name a person, place or thing Nouns are color-coded YELLOW like a school-crossing zone that warns us to be on the look out for children
Pronouns	Yellow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pronouns are subs for nouns. They take the place of a noun in a sentence. Pronouns are color-coded YELLOW just like nouns.
Verbs	Orange	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verbs show action or a state of being. Verbs are color-coded ORANGE like a detour sign that tells us what is happening.
Adjectives	Blue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adjectives describe nouns. They tell what kind, how many, and which one. Adjectives are color-coded BLUE like a first place ribbon that describes a special award.
Articles	Red	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Articles are noun markers. <i>A, an, and the</i> describe nouns. Articles are color-coded RED like a stoplight that warn us, "A noun is coming!"
Adverbs	Purple	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adverbs mainly describe verbs. They answer the questions, "How? When? or Where?" Many end in <i>-ly</i>. Adverbs are color-coded PURPLE like a well-known purple dinosaur (Barney).
Interjections	White	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interjections are words that show strong emotion. They often appear at the start of a sentence or may appear as a single word or phrase. Interjections are color-coded WHITE like a lightbulb that shines brightly.
Prepositions	Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepositions show the relationship between two or more things. A prepositional phrase begins with a preposition and ends with a noun or pronoun. Prepositions are color-coded GREEN like the earth. They can be recycled and reused to describe where something or someone is in relationship to something else.
Conjunctions	Brown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conjunctions connect words, phrases, or sentences. FANBOYS help us remember conjunctions – <i>for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so</i>. Conjunctions are color-coded BROWN like a Lincoln Log that joins parts together.