

## Cuisenaire Rods in Teaching English Language in Secondary School



Letter	Colour	Colour abbreviations
w	white	
r	red	
g	light green	
p	pink (or purple)	
y	yellow	
d	dark green	
b	black	
t	tan (or brown)	
l	Blue	
o	orange	

**Cuisenaire rods** are small wooden sticks of various lengths and colours. They are used as a classroom resource to visually represent different areas of language. These small wooden sticks of various lengths and colours provide a visual and interactive way to reinforce language concepts. Cuisenaire rods are used in the Silent Way, a teaching methodology associated with humanism.

### **Example**

They can be used as realities, asking students to compare sizes and demonstrate prepositions, or as representations of concepts such as verb forms and word order.

Bars of one colour can be used to represent verbs, another is added at the end to represent the past -ed form.

Cuisenaire rods are versatile teaching aids that can enhance language learning in the high school classroom. Some effective ways to use Cuisenaire rods:

### **Narration:**

o Use Cuisenaire rods to visually represent people, places and events within the stories. As students tell the stories, they can move the sticks to show different scenes.

o Examples of stories to use:

- ♣ Well-known fairy tales such as "Little Red Riding Hood" or "The Three Bears".
- ♣ Parts of the plot from the movies that all the students have seen.
- ♣ Stories you encounter in textbooks or other classroom activities.
- ♣ Personal experiences of students or stories shared by teachers in previous classes.

**Adapted from: ETI Malta materials**