

Max the Monkey's Masterful Handwriting Challenge

Learning objective: To demonstrate understanding of consistent letter formation, join-ups, and the presentation of neat, legible handwriting.

Max the Monkey has been practising his loops and flicks! Read the questions carefully and show off your best penmanship as you answer. Remember: keep your letters consistent in size and make sure your joins are smooth.

Answer Key: 1.C (Consistent size), 2.True, 3.Ascender, 4.B (Descending below the line), 5.True, 6.Baseline, 7.False, 8.Legibility, 9.Slant, 10.Fluency. Max reminds you: 'Keep your wrist loose and your pencil grip relaxed to achieve the best results!'

Word bank: ascender · descender · cursive · legibility · alignment · baseline · consistency · fluency

1. 1. Which of these is most important for neat handwriting? A) Pressing as hard as you can, B) Writing as quickly as possible, C) Consistent letter size and spacing*, D) Using a glittery pen. (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: In joined-up handwriting, your pen should stay on the paper for the whole word whenever possible. (1 mark)

3. 3. What is the technical name for the part of a letter that sticks up above the main body, such as in the letter 'h' or 't'? (1 mark)

4. 4. Which letter is a 'descender' that drops below the baseline? A) a, B) g*, C) e, D) i. (1 mark)

5. 5. True or False: All letters should sit neatly on the baseline. (1 mark)

6. 6. Fill in the blank: The imaginary line upon which all your letters rest is called the _____. (1 mark)

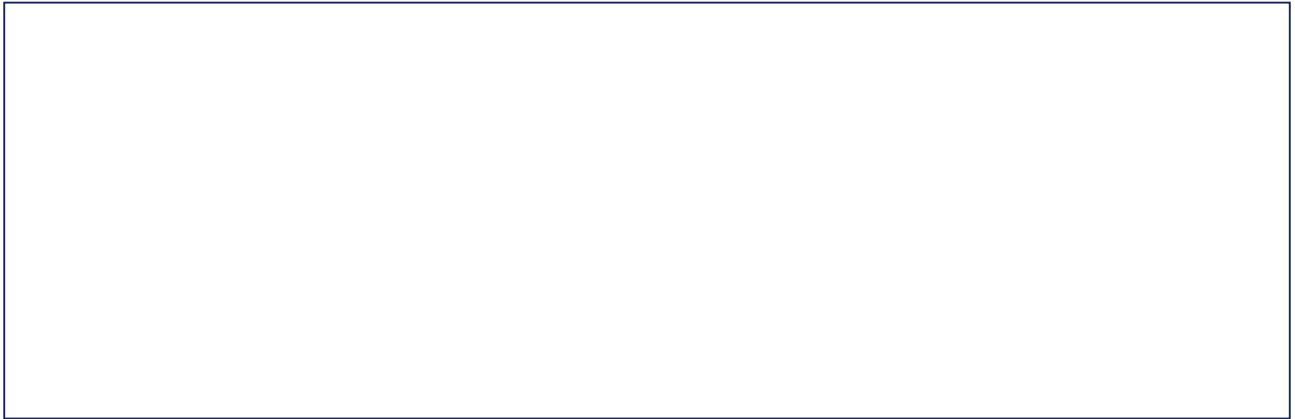
7. 7. True or False: It is perfectly acceptable to mix cursive joins and printed letters in the middle of the same word. (1 mark)

8. 8. What is the word used to describe how easy it is for someone else to read your writing? (1 mark)

9. 9. If your letters are leaning slightly to the right, you are using a consistent _____. (1 mark)

10. 10. What do we call the smooth, flowing movement of the hand while writing? (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the Monkey teaching a group of jungle animals how to write their names using elegant, cursive loops in the sand.



Extension challenge: Greater Depth Challenge: 1. Explain why maintaining a consistent 'slant' in your letters makes a page of writing easier to read. 2. Compare and contrast 'print' writing with 'cursive' writing—why might a historian prefer to study documents written in one style over the other? 3. Justify your answer: Does using a fountain pen always guarantee better handwriting than using a pencil? Why or why not? 4. What might happen to the quality of your writing if you lose focus on your posture while sitting at a desk? 5. Describe the relationship between 'legibility' and 'fluency' in your own words. 6. Design a new 'cursive' letter shape for the letter 'z' that connects easily to an 'o' and explain your design choice.