

Mastering the Art of Joined-Up Script

Learning objective: To develop consistent, legible, and fluent joined-up handwriting, focusing on letter size, spacing, and the correct formation of joins.

Follow the guidance provided by Max the Monkey and Zara the Zebra to improve your cursive style. Remember to keep your letters the same height and ensure your diagonal and horizontal joins are smooth.

Max the Monkey is busy solving a maths puzzle, while Zara the Zebra is admiring the patterns in the garden. Both of them know that clear handwriting is the best way to share their brilliant ideas with the world. To achieve a fluent style, ensure that your ascenders (like 'h' and 'l') reach the top of the line, and your descenders (like 'g' and 'y') drop neatly below the line.

Word bank: legibility · ascender · descender · consistency · fluency · horizontal · diagonal · proportions

1. Explain why it is important to keep a consistent size for your letters when writing in a joined-up style. How does this affect the reader? (2 marks)

2. Compare the physical structure of an ascender and a descender. Why must they be positioned differently relative to the writing line? (2 marks)

3. Max has written the word 'monkey' but his 'k' is floating above the line. Justify why the position of the letter 'k' is vital for the word to be legible. (2 marks)

4. What might happen to the fluency of your writing if you stop to lift your pen between every single letter? Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

5. Copy the following sentence in your best cursive handwriting: 'Zara and Max enjoy exploring the colourful forest together.' (2 marks)

6. Describe the difference between a diagonal join and a horizontal join. Provide one example letter for each type of join. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene where Zara the Zebra is painting a beautiful pattern on a scroll, and Max the Monkey is carefully writing a note next to her, ensuring his letters are perfectly aligned.



Extension challenge: Write a short, persuasive paragraph (4-6 sentences) explaining why handwriting remains an essential skill in a world full of digital tablets and keyboards. Use at least three words from the word bank in your response.