

The Art of Organising: Paragraphs with Max

Learning objective: To understand how paragraphs are used to organise ideas and group information logically.

Read the text carefully, noticing how Max the monkey structures his thoughts. Answer the questions in full sentences, ensuring you refer back to the text.

Max the monkey sat in the canopy, staring at a giant pile of maths puzzles. He realised that if he kept them in one messy heap, his brain would feel just as cluttered. 'To solve these effectively,' Max chirped, 'I must sort them into groups!' He decided to place his geometry challenges in one paragraph, his multiplication problems in another, and his complex division puzzles in a third.

By creating a new paragraph for each topic, Max transformed his messy workspace into an organised system. Each paragraph acted like a sturdy container for his ideas, keeping related information together. When he started writing his notes, he made sure to include a clear topic sentence at the start of every section. This helped him track his progress and prevented his thoughts from tangling like jungle vines. A well-constructed paragraph, Max discovered, is simply a logical way to keep information clear and accessible. With his work now segmented into tidy blocks, Max could focus on the patterns within the puzzles, finding the solutions much faster than before.

Word bank: cohesion · structure · chronological · theme · paragraph · organisation

1. Why did Max decide to sort his maths puzzles into different groups? (2 marks)

2. What specific item did Max include at the start of every section to help him track his progress? (2 marks)

3. Explain why Max compares his thoughts to 'jungle vines' when they are not organised. (3 marks)

4. What might happen to the reader's understanding if Max had written all his puzzles in one giant, unseparated block of text? (3 marks)

5. Do you agree with Max that organisation is the most important part of solving a complex problem? Justify your answer. (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram showing Max the monkey sorting his tasks into labelled wooden crates, with each crate representing a different paragraph topic.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph about your favourite hobby. Then, write a second paragraph explaining why it is your favourite. Ensure each paragraph has a strong topic sentence and explain why keeping these two ideas separate makes your writing better.