

Mastering Sentence Structure: A Linguistic Challenge

Learning objective: To demonstrate mastery of fronted adverbials, conjunctions, expanded noun phrases, and varied sentence structures.

Read each question carefully. Use your best handwriting and ensure you use accurate punctuation throughout. Max the monkey is watching to see how you solve these linguistic puzzles!

Max the monkey sat in the ancient, towering oak tree. He looked down at the forest floor. He was searching for his lost calculator. Suddenly, he spotted a glimmer of gold near the riverbank. He climbed down quickly, his tail swishing behind him.

Word bank: subordinating conjunction · fronted adverbial · expanded noun phrase · comma · relative clause

1. Identify the expanded noun phrase in the first sentence of the passage and explain why it is effective for the reader. (2 marks)

2. Rewrite the second and third sentences as one complex sentence using a subordinating conjunction (e.g., because, although, while). (2 marks)

3. Find the fronted adverbial in the final paragraph. Rewrite the sentence by moving the fronted adverbial to a different position and explain how this changes the emphasis of the sentence. (3 marks)

4. Max found a shiny coin worth £2.50. Write a sentence about this event that includes a relative clause starting with 'which'. (3 marks)

5. Explain why a comma is required after a fronted adverbial. Give an example to justify your answer. (3 marks)

6. Compare and contrast a simple sentence and a compound sentence. Justify why a writer might choose to use a compound sentence instead of two short, simple sentences. (4 marks)

7. Creative Writing Task: Imagine Max has discovered a hidden treasure chest. Write a paragraph of 4-6 sentences describing his discovery. You must include at least one fronted adverbial, one expanded noun phrase, and one compound sentence. Use rich, descriptive vocabulary. (8 marks)

Draw: Draw a detailed scene of Max the monkey discovering the treasure chest in the forest, focusing on the textures of the environment (the rough bark, the shimmering coins, the leafy canopy).



Extension challenge: What might happen to the flow of a story if every sentence began with the subject? Explain why writers vary their sentence structures and how this impacts the reader's engagement. Total: /25