

Mastering Sentence Structure with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To identify and construct varied sentence structures, including the use of fronted adverbials, expanded noun phrases, and coordinating/subordinating conjunctions.

Read each task carefully. Max the Monkey needs your help to organise his maths-themed sentences. Ensure your sentences are punctuated correctly with capital letters and full stops.

Max the Monkey is busy solving puzzles in the jungle. He uses complex equations to count his bananas and measures the height of trees with great precision.

Word bank: cautiously · subsequently · beneath · calculations · complex · furthermore · nevertheless · consequently

1. Max has written a simple sentence: 'The monkey counted the bananas.' Rewrite this sentence as a complex sentence by adding a subordinating conjunction (e.g., because, although, while). (2 marks)

2. Add a fronted adverbial to this sentence to tell us when Max is working: 'Max checked his maths homework.' Remember your comma! (2 marks)

3. Expand the noun phrase in this sentence: 'The monkey solved the puzzle.' (Hint: Use two adjectives and a prepositional phrase). (2 marks)

4. Explain why a writer might choose to use a fronted adverbial at the beginning of a sentence. How does it change the flow for the reader? (3 marks)

5. Compare and contrast a coordinating conjunction (like 'and', 'but', 'so') with a subordinating conjunction. Justify your answer with an example sentence for each. (4 marks)

6. What might happen to the clarity of a story if every single sentence was a simple sentence? Justify your reasoning. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw Max the Monkey sitting in a tree surrounded by floating numbers, geometric shapes, and a scroll of paper with a perfectly structured sentence written on it.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph (4-6 sentences) describing a new adventure for Max. You must include at least one fronted adverbial, one expanded noun phrase, and one sentence using a subordinating conjunction.