

Mastering Sentence Structure with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To vary sentence structure using fronted adverbials, conjunctions, and expanded noun phrases to create engaging descriptions.

Use this scaffold to build your descriptive story about an adventure in the jungle. Use the word bank to help you link your ideas together, and remember to check that your sentences flow logically.

Max the monkey swung nimbly from the ancient mahogany tree, his eyes scanning the forest floor for his next great mathematical puzzle.

Word bank: After a while, · In the distance, · Suddenly, · although · furthermore · consequently · meanwhile · beneath the emerald canopy · cautiously

1. Setting the Scene: Using a fronted adverbial, describe the atmosphere of the jungle. How does the environment look or feel? (2 marks)

2. The Discovery: Explain what Max finds. Use a complex sentence with a conjunction (e.g., because, although, since) to describe his reaction. (2 marks)

3. Building Tension: Describe a challenge or a moment of uncertainty. What might happen if Max cannot solve the puzzle immediately? (2 marks)

4. The Resolution: Compare and contrast how Max felt at the beginning of the adventure versus how he feels now. Justify your answer using evidence from your previous paragraphs. (3 marks)

5. Refining the Narrative: Choose one of your sentences and rewrite it to include a more ambitious adjective or a precise verb. Why does this change improve your writing? (2 marks)

6. Evaluation: If you were to add a conversation between Max and another character, how would your sentence structure change? Explain the impact of using direct speech. (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Compose a short 'Director's Cut' paragraph where you change the tone of your story from adventurous to mysterious. How does your choice of sentence length affect the reader's heartbeat?