

Max's Mathematical Grammar Challenges

Learning objective: To identify and use relative clauses and relative pronouns to add detail and complexity to sentences.

Max the monkey is organising his collection of mathematical puzzles, but he needs your help to build more descriptive sentences. Read the sentences below and use the relative pronouns from the word bank to join the main clauses with the relative clauses. Then, answer the challenge questions to demonstrate your mastery of complex sentences.

Word bank: who · which · whose · that · where

1. Join these two sentences using 'who': Max loves solving geometry puzzles. Max is a clever monkey. (2 marks)

2. Join these two sentences using 'which': The abacus is made of polished wood. The abacus sits on the top shelf. (2 marks)

3. Join these two sentences using 'whose': The scientist was very impressed by the student. The student's calculations were perfectly accurate. (2 marks)

4. Explain why adding a relative clause makes a piece of writing more sophisticated for the reader. (3 marks)

5. Justify your answer: In the sentence 'The library, which is very quiet, is my favourite place', why are commas used around the relative clause? (3 marks)

6. What might happen if you removed the relative clause from a sentence? Does the sentence still make sense? Provide an example. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the monkey in a library surrounded by floating mathematical symbols (like plus signs, triangles, and circles) that are connected to him by ribbons, representing the relative clauses you have created.



Extension challenge: Compose a short, descriptive paragraph (4-6 sentences) about a mysterious laboratory. Your paragraph must include at least three different relative pronouns from the word bank to connect your ideas. Challenge yourself to use one relative clause that requires commas for extra detail.