

Mastering Modal Verbs and Expanded Noun Phrases

Learning objective: To use modal verbs to show degrees of possibility and expanded noun phrases to add detail to descriptive writing.

Follow this scaffold to write a short mystery story featuring Max the monkey as he investigates a strange discovery in the jungle. Use the word bank to improve your vocabulary.

Max the monkey swung through the dense, emerald canopy, his eyes widening as he spotted something peculiar nestled within the roots of the giant banyan tree.

Word bank: might · could · certainly · must · the ancient, moss-covered temple · a peculiar, glowing artefact · furthermore · consequently · perhaps · nevertheless

1. Setting the Scene: Using an expanded noun phrase, describe the object Max found. Start with: Max cautiously approached... (2 marks)

2. Expressing Possibility: Using a modal verb (e.g., might, could, must), explain what Max thinks the object is. Start with: He wondered if it... (2 marks)

3. Adding Detail: Describe Max's reaction using a relative clause. Start with: Max, who was usually very confident, felt... (2 marks)

4. Justify your answer: Explain why you chose your specific modal verb to describe the possibility of the object's origin. Why does this change the tone of your story? (3 marks)

5. Compare and contrast: Compare the effect of using the modal verb 'might' versus 'must' in your second paragraph. How does the reader's expectation change? (3 marks)

6. Creative Extension: What might happen if the object began to glow brighter? Write a short, dramatic conclusion using a fronted adverbial. (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Challenge: Rewrite one of your paragraphs to include a parenthesis (using brackets or dashes) that provides extra information about Max's emotions or the surroundings.