

# Max the Monkey's Masterful Handwriting Challenge

*Learning objective: To demonstrate understanding of consistent letter formation, join-ups, and the presentation of neat, legible handwriting.*

Max the Monkey has been practising his loops and flicks! Read the questions carefully and show off your best penmanship as you answer. Remember: keep your letters consistent in size and make sure your joins are smooth.

Answer Key: 1.C (Consistent size), 2.True, 3.Ascender, 4.B (Descending below the line), 5.True, 6.Baseline, 7.False, 8.Legibility, 9.Slant, 10.Fluency. Max reminds you: 'Keep your wrist loose and your pencil grip relaxed to achieve the best results!'

*Word bank: ascender · descender · cursive · legibility · alignment · baseline · consistency · fluency*

**1. 1. Which of these is most important for neat handwriting? A) Pressing as hard as you can, B) Writing as quickly as possible, C) Consistent letter size and spacing\*, D) Using a glittery pen. (1 mark)**

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**2. 2. True or False: In joined-up handwriting, your pen should stay on the paper for the whole word whenever possible. (1 mark)**

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**3. 3. What is the technical name for the part of a letter that sticks up above the main body, such as in the letter 'h' or 't'? (1 mark)**

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**4. 4. Which letter is a 'descender' that drops below the baseline? A) a, B) g\*, C) e, D) i. (1 mark)**

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**5. 5. True or False: All letters should sit neatly on the baseline. (1 mark)**

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**6. 6. Fill in the blank: The imaginary line upon which all your letters rest is called the \_\_\_\_\_. (1 mark)**

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**7. 7. True or False: It is perfectly acceptable to mix cursive joins and printed letters in the middle of the same word. (1 mark)**

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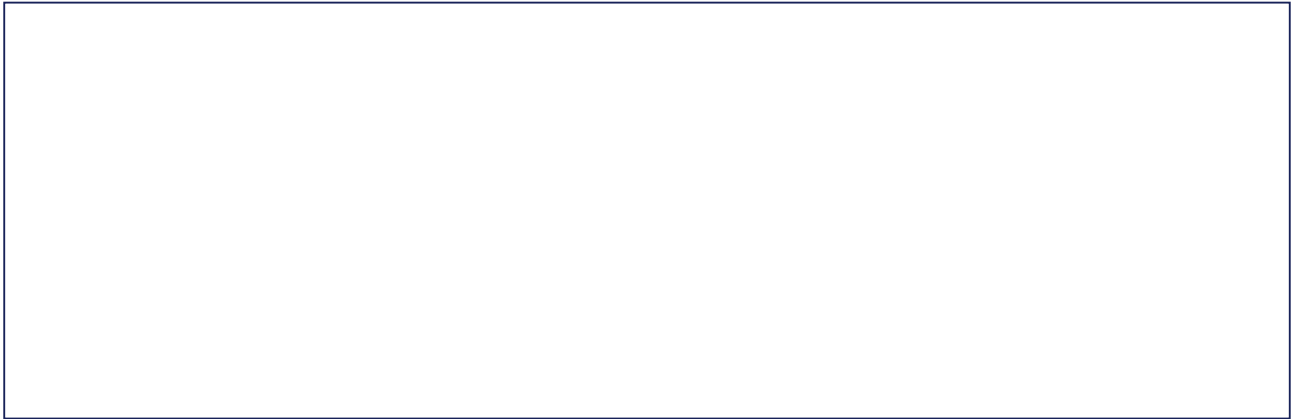
**8. 8. What is the word used to describe how easy it is for someone else to read your writing? (1 mark)**

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9. 9. If your letters are leaning slightly to the right, you are using a consistent \_\_\_\_\_. (1 mark)

10. 10. What do we call the smooth, flowing movement of the hand while writing? (1 mark)

**Draw:** Draw a picture of Max the Monkey teaching a group of jungle animals how to write their names using elegant, cursive loops in the sand.



*Extension challenge: Greater Depth Challenge: 1. Explain why maintaining a consistent 'slant' in your letters makes a page of writing easier to read. 2. Compare and contrast 'print' writing with 'cursive' writing—why might a historian prefer to study documents written in one style over the other? 3. Justify your answer: Does using a fountain pen always guarantee better handwriting than using a pencil? Why or why not? 4. What might happen to the quality of your writing if you lose focus on your posture while sitting at a desk? 5. Describe the relationship between 'legibility' and 'fluency' in your own words. 6. Design a new 'cursive' letter shape for the letter 'z' that connects easily to an 'o' and explain your design choice.*