

Mastering the Art of Paragraphing with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To understand how to organise non-fiction writing into cohesive paragraphs, each with a clear focus or theme.

Max the Monkey loves to organise his thoughts into neat bundles! Read the instructions for each section carefully. Ensure your writing is structured, clear, and uses varied sentence openers.

Max the Monkey is categorising his collection of jungle facts. He has written three distinct ideas but has forgotten to organise them into paragraphs. Idea 1: The diet of a spider monkey. Idea 2: How monkeys swing through the canopy. Idea 3: The importance of the rainforest habitat.

Word bank: cohesion · theme · structure · transition · sequence · focus · indentation · development

1. Explain why it is important for a writer to start a new paragraph when they shift from describing a monkey's diet to explaining how they move through the trees. (2 marks)

2. Look at the three ideas provided in the passage. Write a topic sentence for a paragraph that focuses solely on 'The importance of the rainforest habitat'. (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the function of a paragraph in a factual report versus a paragraph in a story. How does the focus change? (3 marks)

4. Justify your answer: If you were writing a long report about jungle animals, why would using only one giant paragraph be confusing for the reader? (2 marks)

5. What might happen to the flow of your writing if you included a sentence about the price of a banana (£0.20) in the middle of a paragraph describing how monkeys swing? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'Paragraph Tree' for Max. Each main branch of the tree should represent a different paragraph topic. Draw leaves on the branches that represent the supporting details for each topic.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are writing a report on how to care for a pet. Write three paragraphs: one for 'Feeding', one for 'Exercise', and one for 'Grooming'. Ensure each paragraph has a clear 'topic sentence' and use at least two words from the word bank in your response. Challenge yourself to use a fronted adverbial at the start of each paragraph.