

Mastering Sentence Structure with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To understand and use relative clauses, expanded noun phrases, and multi-clause sentences to improve writing quality.

Read the short story about Max's jungle adventure. Use your knowledge of sentence structure to answer the questions below, ensuring you use clear, grammatically correct sentences.

Max the monkey, who was the most energetic climber in the forest, spotted a cluster of golden bananas high in the canopy. He swung swiftly from branch to branch because he wanted to reach the snack before the sun set. The enormous, juicy fruit looked delicious. Although he was tired, Max felt excited as he calculated the perfect jump trajectory. He gripped the sturdy, vine-covered branch, performed a daring leap, and landed safely at the top of the tree.

Word bank: relative clause · subordinate clause · conjunction · adverbial · expanded noun phrase

1. Identify the relative clause in the first sentence. Write it down and explain why it is a relative clause. (2 marks)

2. Find an example of an expanded noun phrase in the passage and explain which words are the adjectives. (2 marks)

3. The sentence 'He swung swiftly from branch to branch because he wanted to reach the snack before the sun set' contains a subordinate clause. Identify the conjunction used to join these clauses. (1 mark)

4. Rewrite the final sentence: 'He gripped the sturdy, vine-covered branch, performed a daring leap, and landed safely at the top of the tree.' Add a fronted adverbial at the beginning to describe how he felt. (2 marks)

5. Why do you think the author used a comma after 'Although he was tired' in the third sentence? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene featuring Max the monkey reaching for the bananas. Label the 'sturdy, vine-covered branch' and the 'golden bananas' using expanded noun phrases.



Extension challenge: Write a paragraph about an adventure you have had. You must include one relative clause starting with 'which' and one sentence that begins with a fronted adverbial.