

Mastering the Paragraph with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To understand how paragraphs are used to organise information and transition between ideas.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below. Remember to look for signpost words that help the text flow.

Max the monkey sat in the canopy, staring at a cluster of bananas. To Max, the jungle was one giant maths puzzle. He began by categorising the fruit. He carefully counted each bunch, noting the colour of the skins and the firmness of the stems. By grouping the bananas into sets of ten, he made his work much easier to manage.

Once he had finished his tally, Max turned his attention to the weather. The sky was turning a deep shade of grey, suggesting that a storm was approaching. He knew that heavy rain would change the texture of the forest floor, making it slippery for his climb back home. He quickly packed his findings into his satchel, ensuring his notes remained dry.

By splitting his thoughts into two distinct sections, Max kept his mind clear. The first part of his day focused on his mathematical tally, while the second part addressed his plan for safety. Just like a well-written story, Max's day had a logical structure. When we use paragraphs, we do exactly what Max does: we group our related ideas together to help the reader follow our train of thought.

Word bank: cohesion · paragraph · transition · structure · logical · narrative

1. Why did Max decide to group the bananas into sets of ten? (2 marks)

2. What does Max notice about the sky, and what does he do as a result? (2 marks)

3. Why does the author describe the jungle as a 'maths puzzle' at the start of the passage? (2 marks)

4. What might have happened if Max had not organised his thoughts into two separate paragraphs? (2 marks)

5. Do you think Max is a good organiser? Explain your answer using evidence from the text. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw Max the monkey sitting in a tree with his satchel, showing one side of his space filled with banana tally charts and the other side showing him preparing for the coming rain.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph about your own morning routine. Then, write a second paragraph explaining how you prepare for your school day, ensuring you use a clear transition phrase between the two ideas.