

Max's Paragraph Puzzle: Mastering Structure

Learning objective: To understand how to use paragraphs to organise ideas, including using topic sentences and shifts in time, place, or focus.

Help Max the monkey organise his messy notes! Read the questions carefully and use your knowledge of paragraph structure to solve them.

Answer Key: 1. A, 2. B, 3. True, 4. B, 5. False, 6. Topic sentence, 7. C, 8. True, 9. D, 10. A. Remember: Paragraphs act like building blocks for your writing, keeping similar ideas together.

Word bank: cohesion · topic sentence · structure · shift · sequence · narrative

1. What is the main purpose of a paragraph? A) To make the page look colourful. B) To group related ideas together. C) To hide spelling mistakes. D) To make the story longer. (A/B/C/D) (1 mark)

2. When should you start a new paragraph? A) Only at the end of a page. B) When there is a change in time, place, or speaker. C) Whenever you feel tired of writing. D) Every two sentences. (A/B/C/D) (1 mark)

3. True or False: A paragraph should usually focus on one main idea. (1 mark)

4. What is the name of the sentence that often introduces the main idea of a paragraph? A) The closing statement. B) The topic sentence. C) The middle sentence. D) The title. (A/B/C/D) (1 mark)

5. True or False: You should never use conjunctions to link sentences within a paragraph. (1 mark)

6. If a story moves from the jungle to the beach, what must the writer do to the structure? (1 mark)

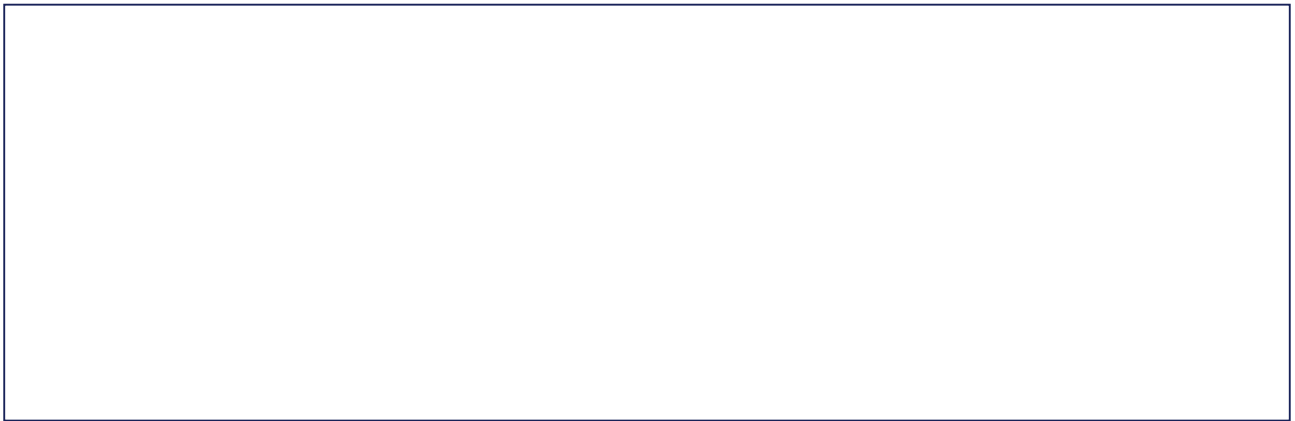
7. Which of these is a good way to show a shift in time? A) Using a full stop. B) Using a comma. C) Starting a new paragraph with a time adverbial like 'Suddenly' or 'The next day'. D) Drawing a picture. (A/B/C/D) (1 mark)

8. True or False: Paragraphs help the reader understand the sequence of events. (1 mark)

9. What is 'cohesion' in writing? A) Using only short words. B) Writing as fast as you can. C) Using a red pen. D) How well sentences and paragraphs flow together to make sense. (A/B/C/D) (1 mark)

10. If you are writing a dialogue, when do you start a new paragraph? A) Every time a new person speaks. B) Only when the characters leave the room. C) Never. D) Every five words. (A/B/C/D) (1 mark)

Draw: Draw Max the monkey organising his Jigsaw Puzzle pieces, where each piece represents a different paragraph of a story.



Extension challenge: Write a short, three-paragraph story about Max the monkey finding a hidden treasure. Use one paragraph for the discovery, one for the challenge he faces, and one for the solution.