

Mastering Punctuation with Max the Maths-Monkey

Learning objective: To use a range of punctuation, including commas, dashes, and brackets, to clarify meaning and add detail to a descriptive narrative.

Max the monkey is helping you organise your sentences! Use the punctuation marks you have learned to build your story. Remember to use commas for lists or clauses, dashes for dramatic pauses, and brackets for extra information. Follow the prompts below to build your own adventure story.

Max the monkey swung through the dense, emerald canopy, his eyes scanning the forest floor for his lost calculator.

Word bank: furthermore · consequently · in addition · surprisingly · nevertheless · meanwhile · which was a brilliant discovery · mostly · fortunately

1. The Introduction: Describe Max's setting using a fronted adverbial and a comma. Start your sentence with: Deep in the heart of the jungle, ... (2 marks)

2. Adding Detail: Use a pair of brackets to include an interesting fact about Max's equipment. Start your sentence with: He reached into his satchel, ... (2 marks)

3. Creating Tension: Use a dash to add a sudden, surprising discovery or a moment of suspense. Start your sentence with: Suddenly, Max spotted something unusual — ... (2 marks)

4. The List: Describe three items Max finds in his bag using commas to separate the items. Start your sentence with: He emptied his bag and found: ... (2 marks)

5. The Conclusion: Use a semi-colon to link two closely related independent clauses about his success. Start your sentence with: Max finally solved the puzzle; ... (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Challenge: Go back through your work and try to add one relative clause beginning with 'which', 'who', or 'where', separated by commas.