

Mastering the Art of Sentences with Max

Learning objective: To understand and identify different sentence structures, including simple, compound, and complex sentences.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions below using full sentences. Pay close attention to how the punctuation changes the meaning of the sentences.

Max the monkey sat in the jungle, surrounded by piles of maths puzzles. 'A simple sentence is like a single banana,' Max explained, munching happily. 'It has one main clause, just like this: Max solved the puzzle.' When Max wanted to add more detail, he used a compound sentence. He joined two main clauses with a conjunction, such as 'and' or 'but'. He wrote, 'Max solved the puzzle, and he felt very proud.'

Suddenly, Nova the owl swooped down from the canopy to join the lesson. She preferred complex sentences, which use a subordinate clause to add extra information. 'Because I am a clever owl, I enjoy reading,' Nova hooted. The subordinate clause adds detail, but it cannot stand alone as a complete thought. Whether you are writing a quick note or a long story, using a variety of sentence types makes your writing much more exciting. Max and Nova spent the rest of the afternoon practising their grammar, ensuring every full stop and comma was perfectly placed to help their readers understand exactly what they meant.

Word bank: conjunction · clause · subordinate · coordinate · punctuation · compound · complex

1. According to Max, what are the two requirements for a compound sentence? (2 marks)

2. What does Nova say is the main difference between a main clause and a subordinate clause? (2 marks)

3. Why might Max and Nova want to use a variety of sentence types in their writing? (2 marks)

4. How does the author show that Max and Nova have a positive friendship? (2 marks)

5. Do you think using complex sentences is important for a good story? Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw Max the monkey holding a sign that says 'Simple' and Nova the owl holding a sign that says 'Complex', with examples of each sentence type written on speech bubbles coming from them.



Extension challenge: Write three sentences about your favourite hobby: one simple sentence, one compound sentence using the conjunction 'so', and one complex sentence starting with the word 'Although'.