

Adventures with Max: Crafting Expanded Noun Phrases

Learning objective: To use expanded noun phrases to add detail and imagery to descriptive writing.

Max the monkey is exploring a mysterious, ancient jungle. Help him describe his surroundings by using expanded noun phrases. Remember: an expanded noun phrase adds extra detail to a noun using adjectives and prepositional phrases (e.g., 'the shimmering, golden sun above the canopy').

Max climbed the towering, ancient tree that stood firmly in the centre of the overgrown jungle.

Word bank: vibrant · towering · ancient · hidden · emerald · dappled · whispering · beneath · amidst · draped in · surrounded by

1. Describe the forest floor. Use an expanded noun phrase to tell me what Max saw beneath his feet. Start with: Max carefully stepped over... (2 marks)

2. Max spotted a strange object hidden in the leaves. Describe this object using at least two adjectives and a prepositional phrase. Start with: Hidden in the tangled vines was... (2 marks)

3. The sky began to change colour. Describe the clouds using an expanded noun phrase. Start with: Above the canopy, the... (2 marks)

4. Explain why adding an expanded noun phrase makes your writing more interesting for the reader compared to using a simple noun like 'the tree'. (3 marks)

5. Compare and contrast: How does changing your adjectives change the mood of the jungle? (e.g., 'dark, gloomy' vs 'bright, cheerful'). (3 marks)

6. Justify your answer: If you were writing a story about a storm, which expanded noun phrase would be more effective: 'the loud, crashing thunder' or 'the noisy sound'? Why? (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine Max has discovered a hidden treasure chest. Write a paragraph of 5-6 sentences describing the chest and its contents. You must include at least four expanded noun phrases to create a vivid image for your reader. What might happen if the chest contained something magical?