

Grammar Explorer: Mastering Modals and Relative Clauses

Learning objective: To identify and use relative clauses and modal verbs to add precision and depth to descriptive writing.

Read the passage about Max the monkey's jungle laboratory. Complete the activities below, focusing on using formal grammar to enhance your sentences. Ensure your answers are written in full, punctuated sentences.

Max, who is an exceptionally bright monkey, spent his morning tinkering with his jungle contraption. He knew that he must calibrate the gears before the sun reached its zenith. 'This device might revolutionise how we gather coconuts,' Max mused, adjusting a brass screw. The machine, which occupied the entire centre of his treehouse, emitted a soft, rhythmic hum. Max wondered if he should add a cooling fan, as the internal temperature could rise rapidly during the midday heat.

Word bank: possibility · necessity · relative pronoun · subordinate · hypothetical · conjunction

1. Identify the relative clause in the first sentence. Explain why the commas are necessary for this clause. (2 marks)

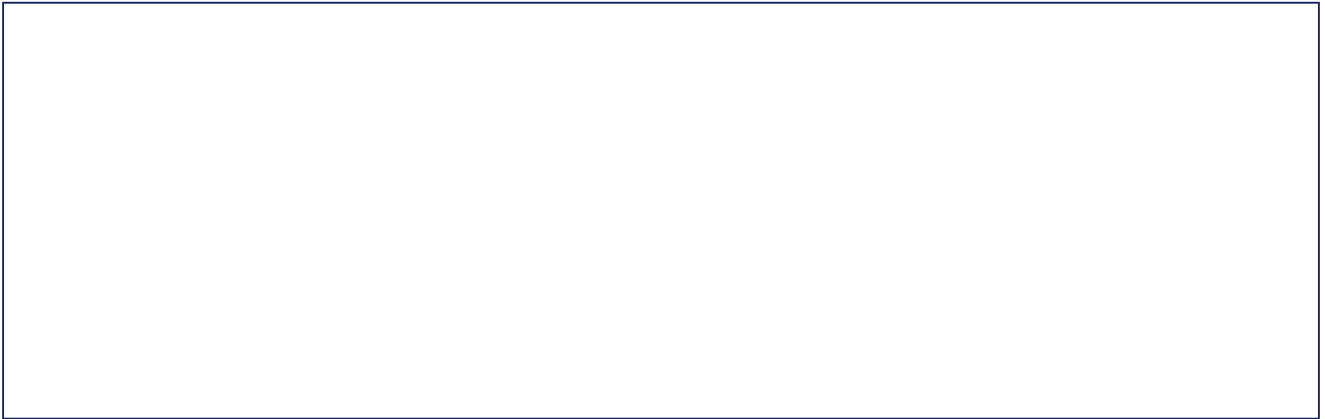
2. Find two modal verbs in the passage that suggest different levels of possibility or necessity. Explain the difference in meaning between them. (2 marks)

3. Rewrite the final sentence of the passage to include a relative clause that provides extra information about the 'midday heat'. (2 marks)

4. Justify why a writer might choose to use a relative clause instead of two separate, simple sentences. (3 marks)

5. Compare and contrast the modal verbs 'might' and 'must'. In what context would 'must' be more appropriate than 'might'? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw Max's complex jungle contraption. Label the different components using relative clauses (e.g., 'The brass lever, which controls the speed, is polished to a shine').



Extension challenge: Imagine Max discovers a rare, glowing fruit in the jungle. Write a paragraph describing this discovery. You must include at least one relative clause and two modal verbs to express the uncertainty and excitement of the find. Explain why your choice of modal verbs helps the reader understand the significance of the discovery.