

Mastering Sentence Structure with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To use a variety of sentence structures, including expanded noun phrases, relative clauses, and fronted adverbials, to create engaging descriptive writing.

Max the Monkey is planning an adventure in the jungle! Help him describe his journey by using the sentence starters and prompts below. Remember to vary your sentence lengths to keep your reader interested.

Max adjusted his favourite red backpack and peered into the dense, tangled jungle that stretched out before him.

Word bank: Meanwhile · Suddenly · Which was hidden by · Beneath the emerald canopy · However · Consequently · Although · Who was feeling particularly brave · Without warning

1. Setting the Scene: Use a fronted adverbial to describe where Max is starting his adventure. Try starting with 'Deep within the heart of the jungle...' (2 marks)

2. Introducing a Character: Describe a companion Max meets, using a relative clause starting with 'who' or 'which' to add extra detail. (2 marks)

3. The Challenge: Explain a problem Max encounters using a subordinating conjunction like 'because', 'although', or 'since'. (2 marks)

4. The Solution: Describe how Max solves the problem using a multi-clause sentence to show his clever thinking. (2 marks)

5. The Conclusion: End your story with a short, punchy sentence that captures how Max feels now that his adventure is complete. (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Challenge yourself by adding an expanded noun phrase to each paragraph (e.g., 'the ancient, moss-covered stone statue'). Can you spot any places where you could use a semi-colon instead of a full stop to link two related sentences?