

Mastering Adjectives with Max the Math Monkey

Learning objective: To identify, understand, and use expanded noun phrases and adjectives to add precision and detail to writing.

Read each card carefully. Max is looking for the most precise adjectives to describe his surroundings. See if you can identify the adjective or provide a more sophisticated alternative.

What is an adjective?

An adjective is a word that describes or provides more detail about a noun or pronoun.

Identify the adjective in this sentence: 'The curious owl watched the stars.'

Curious.

Create an expanded noun phrase for 'the monkey' using two adjectives.

Example: The energetic, clever monkey.

Replace the word 'good' in this sentence with a more vivid adjective: 'Max ate a good banana.'

Example: Max ate a delicious, ripe, or nutritious banana.

What is the purpose of using adjectives in a story?

Adjectives help the reader visualise the setting and understand a character's personality or appearance more clearly.

Identify the two adjectives in this phrase: 'The brave, gentle lion roared softly.'

Brave and gentle.

Explain why an author might choose the adjective 'colossal' instead of 'big'.

'Colossal' provides a more precise and dramatic sense of scale, helping the reader imagine a truly massive size.

Which word is the noun in this phrase: 'The bright, yellow sun'?

Sun.

Transform this simple sentence into an expanded noun phrase: 'The bee flew.'

Example: The industrious, fuzzy bee flew.

Compare and contrast the adjectives 'happy' and 'ecstatic'.

Both describe a positive emotion, but 'ecstatic' suggests a much higher intensity of joy than 'happy'.

Justify your answer: Does the word 'quickly' function as an adjective in the sentence 'The fox ran quickly'?

No, it is an adverb because it describes how the action (the verb 'ran') was performed, not the noun.

What might happen to a story if an author used no adjectives at all?

The writing might feel dull, lack detail, and fail to paint a clear mental picture for the reader.