

Max the Mathematical Architect

Learning objective: To identify and use a range of sentence structures, including fronted adverbials and expanded noun phrases, to improve the quality of writing.

Read the story of Max the monkey carefully. Pay close attention to how the sentences begin and how they are joined together. Answer the questions using full sentences.

Max the monkey sat in his treetop laboratory, surrounded by scattered blueprints and half-eaten bananas. Being a brilliant mathematician, he spent his mornings calculating the precise angle required to swing from the kapok tree to the mahogany branch. Carefully, he measured the distance with a vine ruler. He knew that if he miscalculated the arc, he might tumble into the ferns below. Suddenly, a bright idea struck him! Max grabbed a piece of charcoal and began scribbling complex equations onto a large, apartment leaf. He worked with intense focus until the pattern became clear. With a triumphant grin, he realized that the secret to a perfect jump was hidden in the geometry of the forest canopy. Because he had taken the time to plan, Max felt ready to test his theory. He climbed to the highest point, took a deep breath, and launched himself into the air. Through the golden sunlight he soared, landing perfectly on the target branch. Max proved that when you use careful planning, even the trickiest puzzles can be solved with grace and precision.

Word bank: adverbial · conjunction · subordinate · expanded · structure · fluent

1. What tools did Max use to measure the distance and record his calculations? (2 marks) (2 marks)

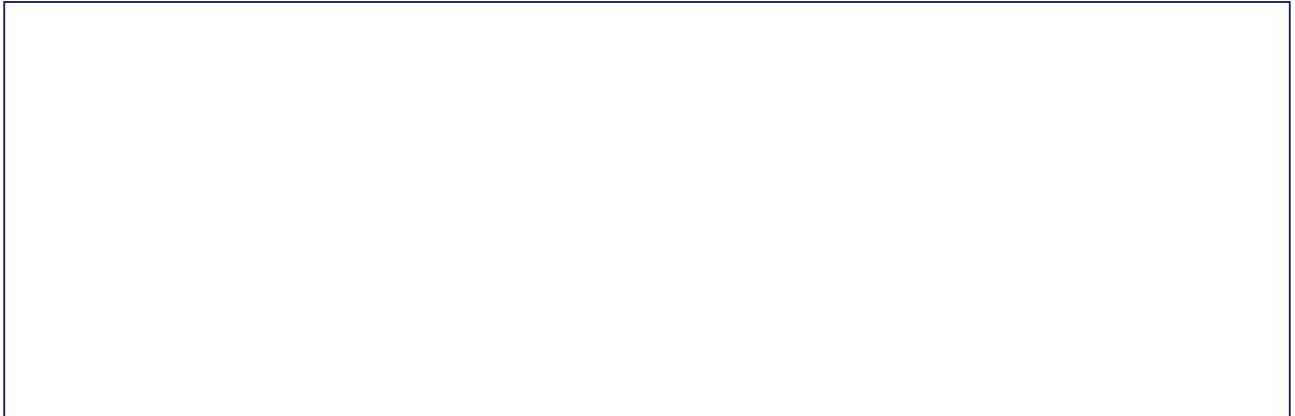
2. Identify two fronted adverbials used in the text to describe how or when Max performed his actions. (2 marks) (2 marks)

3. Why do you think Max needed to be so careful with his calculations before jumping? (2 marks) (2 marks)

4. How does the author show that Max is feeling confident about his mathematical discovery? (2 marks) (2 marks)

5. Do you agree that planning is the most important part of solving a difficult problem? Justify your opinion using evidence from the text. (3 marks) (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram of Max's treetop laboratory, including his vine ruler, the blueprints on leaves, and the path of his jump through the forest canopy.



Extension challenge: Rewrite the final paragraph of the story, but this time, change the tone to be more suspenseful. Use at least two different conjunctions (such as 'although', 'whenever', or 'since') and ensure you include a fronted adverbial to set the scene.