

Sentence Structure: Building Better Sentences with Max

Learning objective: To identify and use fronted adverbials and expanded noun phrases to improve sentence variety.

Read the story below about Max the monkey's jungle adventure. Complete the questions to show how you can manipulate sentence structure to add detail and excitement to your writing.

Max the monkey sat on a branch. He looked at the fruit. The bananas were ripe. Max climbed down the tree. He grabbed a snack. The jungle was quiet. He felt happy.

Word bank: cautiously · magnificent · energetically · emerald · suddenly · sprawling · without warning · astonishing

1. Identify the 'fronted adverbial' in this sentence: 'Without warning, Max swung through the canopy.' Why has the author chosen to place this phrase at the beginning? (2 marks)

2. Rewrite the sentence 'The bananas were ripe' by adding an expanded noun phrase and a prepositional phrase to provide more detail. (2 marks)

3. Look at the original passage. Choose two simple sentences and combine them using a subordinating conjunction (e.g., because, although, while, if). (2 marks)

4. Explain why using a variety of sentence structures, rather than just simple sentences, makes a story more engaging for the reader. (2 marks)

5. Justify your answer: If you were describing a thunderstorm in the jungle, would you use short, punchy sentences or long, flowing sentences? Why? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the monkey in the jungle using at least three different colors to show the textures of the trees and leaves. Label your drawing using an expanded noun phrase (e.g., 'The colossal, moss-covered tree').



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph (4-6 sentences) describing Max discovering a hidden treasure chest. You must include: one fronted adverbial, one expanded noun phrase, and one complex sentence starting with a subordinate clause. Compare your paragraph to the original passage; what are the main differences in tone?