

Mastering Expanded Noun Phrases with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To use expanded noun phrases to convey complicated information concisely in descriptive writing.

Read the passage below about Max's jungle exploration. Identify the expanded noun phrases, then use the provided word bank to craft your own, more sophisticated descriptions.

Max the monkey swung through the forest. He reached for a piece of fruit. Below him, the river flowed towards the sea. Max stopped to look at a butterfly resting on a leaf. He felt happy in his home.

Word bank: ancient · shimmering · labyrinthine · verdant · meticulous · vibrant · formidable · ethereal

1. Identify three noun phrases in the passage that could be expanded to create more vivid imagery. Rewrite them using at least one adjective and one prepositional phrase. (3 marks)

2. Explain why using an expanded noun phrase is more effective for a reader than using a simple noun. Give an example to justify your answer. (2 marks)

3. In the sentence 'Max reached for a piece of fruit', expand the noun phrase 'a piece of fruit' to include a detail about its appearance and where it is located. (2 marks)

4. Compare and contrast the effect of the sentence 'The river flowed' with an expanded version such as 'The winding, crystalline river flowed steadily through the shadowed valley'. How does the tone change? (3 marks)

5. What might happen to the reader's engagement if a writer used too many expanded noun phrases in a single paragraph? Justify your opinion. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene from Max's jungle. Include at least three elements from your writing (e.g., a 'shimmering, turquoise river') and label them with the expanded noun phrases you created.



Extension challenge: Write a short, descriptive paragraph (5-8 sentences) about a hidden treasure found by Max. You must include at least four expanded noun phrases, ensuring each one adds either sensory detail (sight, sound, touch) or location-based information.