

Mastering Expanded Noun Phrases with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To expand noun phrases by adding modifying adjectives and prepositional phrases to convey precise information.

Max the Monkey is categorising objects in the jungle for his maths puzzles. Help him make his descriptions more vivid and detailed by using expanded noun phrases. Remember: a noun phrase is a group of words built around a noun. Expand them by adding adjectives before the noun or prepositional phrases after it.

Max is organising his collection of jungle treasures. He has a banana, a stone, a flower, and a telescope.

Word bank: shimmering · dense · cluttered · ancient · vibrant · beside the river · with velvet petals · under the canopy · covered in moss · gleaming

1. Max has a 'banana'. Expand this noun phrase by adding two adjectives before the noun and one prepositional phrase after it. Example: The ripe, yellow banana hanging from the tree. (3 marks)

2. Look at the noun 'stone'. Write an expanded noun phrase that describes its appearance and where it is located in the jungle. (2 marks)

3. Compare these two phrases: 'The flower' and 'The vibrant, delicate flower with velvet petals'. Explain why the second phrase is more effective for a reader. (3 marks)

4. Max found a 'telescope'. Justify why adding an expanded noun phrase would help a reader visualise this item more clearly than a simple noun. (3 marks)

5. What might happen to the imagery of a story if an author used expanded noun phrases for every single object on a page? Would it improve the writing or clutter it? Explain your reasoning. (4 marks)

Draw: Draw Max the Monkey sitting in the jungle surrounded by the items you described in your expanded noun phrases. Label each item with your full expanded noun phrase.



Extension challenge: Imagine Max discovers a mysterious, ancient treasure chest. Write a descriptive paragraph (4-6 sentences) about the chest, using at least three sophisticated expanded noun phrases. Ensure your choices of adjectives create a sense of mystery or wonder.