

Mastering Expanded Noun Phrases with Max the Monkey

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

Max the Monkey loves to turn simple objects into detailed puzzles. Use the prompts below to build your own expanded noun phrases. Remember: an expanded noun phrase adds detail to a noun using adjectives and prepositional phrases (e.g., 'the tall, golden banana on the wooden table').

Max gazed at the mysterious, weathered map resting upon the rough, mossy tree stump.

Word bank: shimmering · ancient · intricate · nestled amongst · overlooking · beneath · formidable · vibrant · suspended · consequently · furthermore

1. The Setting: Start by describing a location in a jungle using an expanded noun phrase. For example: 'The [adjective], [adjective] [noun] [prepositional phrase]...' (2 marks)

2. The Character: Introduce a character who is exploring this setting. Expand the noun 'explorer' with two powerful adjectives and a phrase explaining where they are standing. (2 marks)

3. The Object: Explain why the explorer is looking for a specific item. Use an expanded noun phrase to describe the object. Justify why this object is so important to the story. (3 marks)

4. Compare and Contrast: Look at your two descriptions. How does adding a prepositional phrase (e.g., 'in the distance') change the reader's mental image compared to just using adjectives? (3 marks)

5. Evaluation: If you removed all the adjectives from your paragraph, what might happen to the 'mood' or 'atmosphere' of your writing? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

6. Creative Challenge: Write a final sentence that uses an expanded noun phrase to describe a hidden treasure. Use the word 'consequently' to show the result of finding it. (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are writing a guide for other monkeys. Write a short paragraph explaining the 'formula' for a perfect expanded noun phrase. Why is it more effective to use 'the glistening, silver key hanging from the iron hook' rather than just 'the key'?