

Mastering Nouns and Verbs with Max the Maths-Monkey

Learning objective: To identify and manipulate abstract and collective nouns, and to apply precise, ambitious verbs to enhance descriptive writing.

Read each task carefully. Ensure your answers demonstrate an understanding of how nouns and verbs function together to create vivid, grammatically accurate sentences.

Word bank: constellation · calculate · flock · curiosity · analyse · determination · swarm · formulate · courage · investigate

1. Max is observing a group of birds flying in the sky. Identify the collective noun in the phrase 'a flock of birds' and explain why it is categorised as a collective noun. (2 marks)

2. Choose one abstract noun from the word bank (e.g., curiosity or determination) and use it in a sentence that describes a scientific discovery. Underline the noun and circle the verb. (2 marks)

3. Rewrite the following sentence using a more ambitious, precise verb: 'Max looked at the maths problem.' Explain why your chosen verb is more effective than 'looked'. (3 marks)

4. Compare and contrast the function of a concrete noun (like 'telescope') and an abstract noun (like 'courage'). Why might a writer need both to craft a compelling story? (3 marks)

5. Justify your answer: Is the word 'calculate' a noun or a verb? How could you transform this word into a noun to describe a person who performs calculations? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene featuring Max the monkey in a laboratory. Label three concrete nouns you have drawn, and write a sentence at the bottom of your picture using an abstract noun and a powerful verb to describe what Max is doing.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph (50–70 words) describing a fictional invention. You must include at least two collective nouns, two abstract nouns, and three ambitious verbs. Underline your nouns in blue and your verbs in red.