

Mastering Paragraphs with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To understand how to organise writing into paragraphs using a range of cohesive devices to link ideas across paragraphs.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of paragraph structure, topic sentences, and transition words to complete the tasks. Remember to ensure your writing flows logically.

Max the Monkey is planning a jungle adventure. He needs to group his notes into clear sections so his friends can follow the plan.

Word bank: cohesion · transition · chronological · thematic · conjunctions · subordinate · perspective · development

1. Max has a list of facts about the jungle. Explain why it is essential to group these facts into separate paragraphs rather than writing them as one long block of text. Consider the reader's experience. (2 marks)

2. Write a 'topic sentence' that could introduce a paragraph about the specific equipment Max needs for his expedition. Justify why this sentence effectively sets the theme for the rest of the paragraph. (2 marks)

3. Max wants to move from a paragraph about 'Morning Preparations' to a paragraph about 'Afternoon Exploration'. Suggest a transition phrase he could use to link these two paragraphs smoothly. (1 mark)

4. Compare and contrast the use of paragraphs in a narrative story versus an instructional manual. How does the purpose of the writing change the way paragraphs are structured? (3 marks)

5. Max has written: 'I packed my bag. I am ready to go. I hope it does not rain.' Rewrite these three sentences into one cohesive, complex sentence that could act as a concluding sentence for a paragraph. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram showing a 'Paragraph Sandwich'. Label the top bun as the 'Topic Sentence', the middle fillings as the 'Supporting Details and Evidence', and the bottom bun as the 'Concluding Summary'.



Extension challenge: Imagine Max discovers a hidden temple. Write two paragraphs describing this discovery. In your first paragraph, focus on the sensory details (what he sees, hears, and smells). In your second paragraph, focus on his emotional response. Justify why you chose to split these two aspects into separate paragraphs. What might happen to the reader's understanding if you merged them?