

Mastering Paragraphs: The Architect's Guide to Narrative

Learning objective: To structure a narrative using organised paragraphs that signal shifts in time, place, and character perspective.

Use this scaffold to build your story. Remember, a new paragraph is like a new room in a house; you need a reason to move into it! Use the passage below as your inspiration for a story about Max the monkey's great jungle discovery.

Max the monkey swung through the emerald canopy, his eyes scanning the forest floor for the hidden grove that Ellie the elephant had described.

Word bank: Subsequently · Without warning · Meanwhile · Furthermore · In the distance · Consequently · On the other hand · As the sun began to set · Despite these challenges

1. Introduction: Describe the setting where Max arrives. Start with: 'The air grew thick with the scent of damp earth as Max landed gracefully upon the mossy ground...' Explain why this setting feels mysterious. (2 marks)

2. The Conflict: Introduce a problem Max faces. Start with: 'Suddenly, a low, rumbling sound echoed through the trees, causing Max to freeze in his tracks...' Justify why this obstacle tests Max's courage. (2 marks)

3. The Resolution: Describe how Max solves the problem. Start with: 'Drawing upon his knowledge of jungle patterns, Max realised that...' Compare and contrast his reaction to how a less observant monkey might have behaved. (2 marks)

4. The Conclusion: Describe the aftermath. Start with: 'As the golden light faded, Max looked back at the grove one last time...' What might happen if Max decided to share this location with his friends? (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph explaining the 'paragraph rule' you used to transition between your introduction and your conflict. Why is it important for a reader that these two sections are separated?