

Mastering Paragraphs with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To understand how to organise non-fiction writing into cohesive paragraphs, using linking words and thematic grouping.

Read each task carefully. Max the Monkey needs your help to organise his maths investigation notes into a logical structure. Use your knowledge of paragraph structure and cohesion to complete the exercises.

Max the Monkey is writing a report on his study of fruit market prices. He has gathered his facts, but his notes are currently in one giant, messy heap. To make his report clear for the reader, he needs to group his ideas into distinct paragraphs: one for 'Market Prices', one for 'Fruit Varieties', and one for 'Spending Habits'.

Word bank: cohesion · subheading · topic sentence · conjunctions · thematic · chronological · transition

1. Max has written a sentence to start his paragraph about market prices: 'The cost of fruit varies depending on the season.' Explain why this makes a good topic sentence. (2 marks)

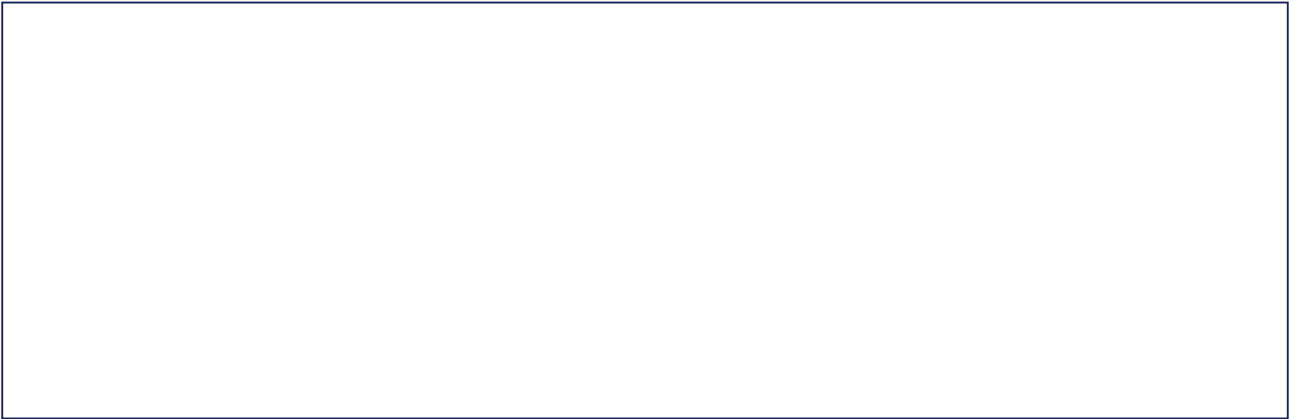
2. Max wants to link his paragraph about 'Market Prices' to his paragraph about 'Spending Habits'. Write a transition sentence that he could use to bridge these two ideas. (2 marks)

3. Explain why it is important to start a new paragraph when Max moves from discussing 'Fruit Varieties' to 'Spending Habits'. (2 marks)

4. Max found that a bunch of bananas costs £1.20 and a crate of oranges costs £4.50. Write two sentences that compare these costs, ensuring they are joined by a subordinating conjunction to create cohesion. (2 marks)

5. Look at these three headings: 'Introduction', 'The Most Expensive Fruits', and 'Conclusion'. If you were writing a report, why might you use subheadings in addition to paragraphs? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram of a filing cabinet where each drawer represents a different paragraph theme. Label the drawers with Max the Monkey's report topics.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph (4-5 sentences) explaining how you would budget £10.00 at a fruit market. Ensure you use at least two cohesive devices (such as 'furthermore', 'however', or 'consequently') to link your ideas.