

Max's Punctuation Puzzle: The Grand Adventure

Learning objective: To accurately use and understand the function of colons, semi-colons, and bullet points to list items and connect related independent clauses.

Max the monkey has been busy organising his expedition equipment, but he has mixed up his punctuation! Help him prepare for his adventure by completing the following tasks. You must decide whether to use a colon (to introduce a list), a semi-colon (to join two independent but related clauses), or bullet points to make his notes clear. Rewrite the sentences or complete the tasks as requested.

Word bank: colon · semi-colon · independent clause · list · bullet points · punctuation mark

1. Max has a list of items to pack. Rewrite this sentence using a colon to introduce the list: Max needs to pack these items for his trip: a sturdy compass, a warm woolly jumper, a bottle of water, and a notebook. (2 marks)

2. Max wants to write his packing list using bullet points for clarity. Rewrite the list of items from Question 1 using a colon and bullet points. (2 marks)

3. Max wrote two related sentences: 'The sun was setting behind the hills. The sky turned a beautiful shade of violet.' Join these two independent clauses into one sentence using a semi-colon. (2 marks)

4. Explain why a semi-colon is used in the sentence: 'Max packed his heavy bag; he was ready for the long journey.' (2 marks)

5. Max found a note: 'The map is torn; we must find another way.' Is the semi-colon used correctly here? Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a backpack belonging to Max the monkey. Inside the backpack, draw four of the items he is packing, and label them using a list introduced by a colon.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph (3-4 sentences) about an adventure that Pip the caterpillar is planning. You must include at least one colon to introduce a list of supplies and one semi-colon to link two related sentences about the weather.