

Mastering Punctuation with Max the Maths Monkey

Learning objective: To use a range of punctuation (semicolons, colons, dashes, and commas) to improve clarity and flow in descriptive writing.

Use this writing frame to craft a descriptive paragraph about a forest adventure. Remember to use at least one semicolon to join related clauses, a colon to introduce a list, and a dash for dramatic effect.

The ancient, tangled forest stood before us like a silent, emerald giant waiting to share its secrets.

Word bank: consequently · furthermore · nonetheless · in addition · surprisingly · on the other hand · without warning · a vast array of

1. Setting the Scene: Using a semicolon, describe the atmosphere of the forest. Sentence starter: The shadows stretched across the mossy floor; ... (2 marks)

2. The Discovery: Use a colon to introduce a list of three items you might find on the forest floor. Sentence starter: Max peered into the thicket and spotted three hidden treasures: ... (2 marks)

3. Adding Tension: Use a dash to add a sudden detail or interruption to your sentence. Sentence starter: A rustle echoed through the trees— ... (2 marks)

4. Refining the Narrative: Use a comma to separate a fronted adverbial or extra information. Sentence starter: Carefully and quietly, ... (2 marks)

5. Concluding Thought: Summarise the feeling of the adventure using a complex sentence.
Sentence starter: Although the journey was challenging, ... (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Try to rewrite one of your sentences using parentheses (brackets) to include a piece of extra information without breaking the flow of your main clause.