

Mastering Sentence Structures with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To identify, construct, and manipulate complex and compound sentences to improve writing flow and precision.

Read each task carefully. Max the Monkey has provided some scrambled maths-themed sentences to help you practise using conjunctions, relative clauses, and fronted adverbials. Ensure your grammar and punctuation are precise.

Max the Monkey is organising his collection of golden acorns. He needs your help to structure his sentences perfectly to describe his scientific findings.

Word bank: although · furthermore · which · consequently · whilst · nevertheless · because · subsequently

1. Combine these two simple sentences into one complex sentence using a subordinating conjunction: 'Max counted the acorns.' 'He felt very hungry.' (2 marks)

2. Add a relative clause starting with 'which' to this sentence: 'Max found a mysterious, shiny acorn under the oak tree.' (2 marks)

3. Rewrite the following sentence by moving the phrase 'With a great leap' to the beginning to create a fronted adverbial: 'Max reached the highest branch with a great leap.' (2 marks)

4. Explain why using a semi-colon instead of a conjunction might improve the rhythm of this sentence: 'Max finished his maths puzzle; he felt incredibly proud.' (3 marks)

5. Compare and contrast: How does changing 'because' to 'consequently' alter the meaning or tone of a sentence about Max's acorn collection? (3 marks)

6. Justify your answer: If you were writing a story about Max, would you use more short, punchy sentences or long, complex sentences during an action scene? Why? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw Max the Monkey in his laboratory, surrounded by piles of acorns sorted into different geometric patterns. Include a sign that features a complex sentence about his favourite shape.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph (4-6 sentences) describing a day in the life of Max. You must include one sentence starting with a fronted adverbial, one sentence containing a relative clause, and one sentence that uses a semi-colon to link two independent clauses.