

Mastering Sentence Structure with Max the Mathematician

Learning objective: To identify, classify, and construct simple, compound, and complex sentences using conjunctions and relative clauses.

Max the Monkey loves to turn sentences into equations! Look at the sentences provided in the questions below. Decide if each one is a Simple, Compound, or Complex sentence. If it is Compound, circle the coordinating conjunction. If it is Complex, underline the subordinating conjunction or relative pronoun. Then, follow Max's 'Formula' to rewrite one sentence of your own for each type.

Word bank: Simple · Compound · Complex · Coordinating conjunction · Subordinating conjunction · Relative clause · Independent clause · Dependent clause

1. Max climbed the tree, and he found a delicious mango. (Identify the sentence type and highlight the conjunction.) (2 marks)

2. The lion, who was feeling very brave, wrote a beautiful poem. (Identify the sentence type and identify the relative clause.) (2 marks)

3. Pip the caterpillar read a book. (Identify the sentence type and explain why it is not compound.) (2 marks)

4. Although the sun was setting, Nova the owl began her stargazing. (Identify the sentence type and the subordinating conjunction.) (2 marks)

5. Write your own 'Compound' sentence about Ellie the elephant going to the market to buy fruit for £5.00. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram of a 'Sentence Robot'. Use labels to show how the head is the independent clause, the arms are coordinating conjunctions, and the legs are dependent clauses.



Extension challenge: Choose one of your sentences and expand it by adding an adverbial phrase of time or place. How does this change the 'equation' of your sentence structure?