

# Mastering the Craft of Sentences with Max the Monkey

*Learning objective: To identify and use a variety of sentence structures including simple, compound, and complex sentences to improve writing quality.*

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below using full sentences. Pay close attention to how the sentences are built.

Max the monkey was a master of maths, but he also had a passion for writing. He knew that the secret to a great story was sentence structure. Sometimes, Max wrote simple sentences, which were short and punchy. He liked these because they were easy to understand. However, to make his writing more exciting, he often used compound sentences. By using a coordinating conjunction like 'and', 'but', or 'or', he could join two main clauses together. Max felt truly clever when he used complex sentences. By adding a subordinate clause, he could provide extra information about when, where, or why something happened. He often practised by the river, where the water flowed gently. If Max was feeling particularly creative, he would vary his sentence lengths to create a specific rhythm. He believed that if his writing flowed like a song, his readers would never want to put his stories down. Whether he was calculating a total of £15.50 for his banana shop or writing a poem, Max treated every sentence like a puzzle waiting to be solved.

*Word bank: conjunction · clause · subordinate · coordinate · punctuation · structure · fluent*

**1. Identify two coordinating conjunctions mentioned in the text that Max uses to join main clauses. (2 marks)**

**2. According to the passage, what specific type of clause does Max add to a sentence to provide extra information? (2 marks)**

**3. Why does Max choose to vary the length of his sentences when he is writing? (2 marks)**

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**4. What does the text suggest about Max's personality in relation to his approach to work? (2 marks)**

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**5. Do you think Max's method of treating sentences like 'puzzles' is a helpful way to learn writing? Explain your opinion. (2 marks)**

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**Draw:** Draw a picture of Max the monkey sitting by a river with a notebook and a pen, looking thoughtful as he writes a story.



*Extension challenge: Write three sentences about your favourite hobby. Make the first a simple sentence, the second a compound sentence, and the third a complex sentence.*