

Mastering Sentence Structure with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To use a variety of sentence structures, including expanded noun phrases, relative clauses, and fronted adverbials to improve writing cohesion.

Max the Monkey is trying to organise his jungle adventures. Use the prompts below to build complex, descriptive sentences. Remember to vary your sentence length and use the word bank to link your ideas together.

High above the canopy, where the sunlight filters through the dense emerald leaves, Max the Monkey spotted something extraordinary.

Word bank: furthermore · consequently · although · whilst · in addition to · suddenly · which · who · despite

1. Introduction: Describe the setting using a fronted adverbial to start your sentence. Where is the scene taking place and what is the atmosphere like? Start with: 'Deep within the heart of the ancient forest...' (2 marks)

2. The Character: Introduce your main character (or Max). Use a relative clause beginning with 'who' or 'which' to add extra information about them. Start with: 'Max, who was known for his love of solving complex puzzles...' (2 marks)

3. The Conflict: Use a connective such as 'although' or 'despite' to explain a problem or challenge the character faces. Start with: 'Although the path ahead looked treacherous...' (2 marks)

4. The Action: Use an expanded noun phrase to describe an object or animal they encounter. Start with: 'Suddenly, he discovered a mysterious, tarnished golden key hidden beneath...' (2 marks)

5. Conclusion: Summarise the outcome using a causal connective like 'consequently' or 'therefore'. Start with: 'Consequently, the secret of the forest was finally revealed because...' (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Challenge: Rewrite one of your paragraphs by turning it into a complex sentence containing both a subordinate clause and a main clause. Can you include a colon to introduce a list of items found in the jungle?