

Expanding Our Horizons: Vocabulary Challenge

Learning objective: To improve writing by replacing common verbs and adjectives with precise, ambitious vocabulary.

Read the short story about Max the monkey's jungle adventure. Use the word bank to help you identify more descriptive synonyms for the underlined words. Rewrite the sentences to make the imagery more vivid.

Max the monkey sat on a big tree branch. The sun was very bright in the sky. Below him, a river went slowly through the forest. Max felt a bit worried because he had lost his favourite compass. He moved quickly down the trunk to look for it. The jungle felt very quiet and peaceful today.

Word bank: scampered · radiant · agitated · colossal · meandered · tranquil

1. Identify the word from the word bank that best replaces 'big' to describe the tree branch. Explain why this word is more effective than 'big'. (2 marks)

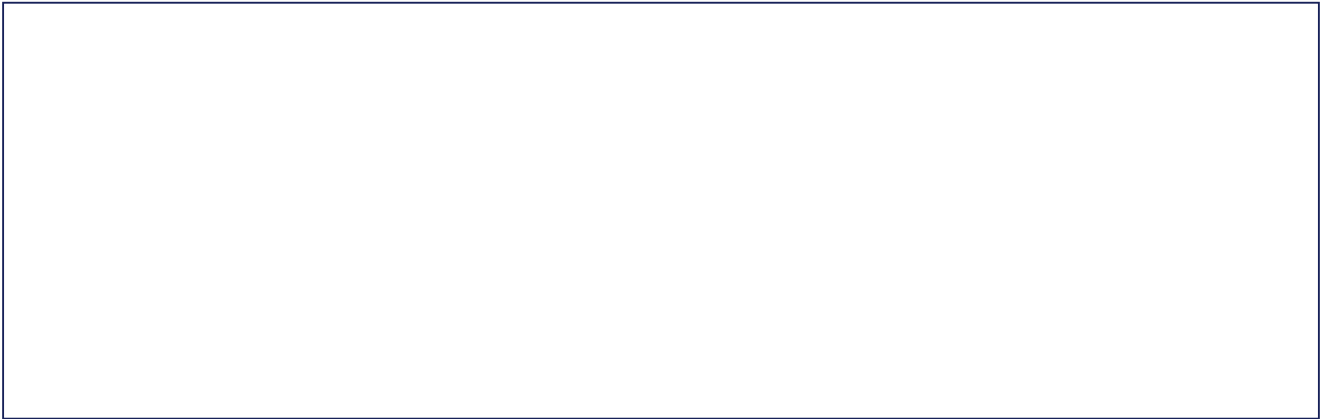
2. Rewrite the sentence 'The sun was very bright in the sky' using one of the words from the bank to improve the description. (2 marks)

3. The passage says the river 'went slowly'. Which word from the bank describes this movement more precisely? (1 mark)

4. Max felt 'worried'. If Max were feeling much more nervous or restless, which word from the bank would be the most appropriate choice? (1 mark)

5. Rewrite the final sentence of the passage: 'The jungle felt very quiet and peaceful today', ensuring you include the adjective 'tranquil'. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene of Max the monkey in the jungle using the vocabulary you have chosen. Think about how a 'colossal' tree might look compared to a small monkey.



Extension challenge: Choose three other common words you often use in your writing (e.g., 'said', 'ran', 'happy') and create your own 'synonym ladder' with at least four increasingly sophisticated alternatives for each.