Max’s Maths and Grammar Adventure: The Colon and Semicolon Challenge

Learning objective: To correctly identify and apply colons and semicolons to link independent clauses and introduce lists, following Year 6 SPaG standards.

Max the monkey is organising his collection of mathematical puzzles and historical artefacts. He has written a series of sentences, but he has accidentally left out all the colons and semicolons. Your task is to act as the editor. For each sentence, choose whether to add a colon (:) or a semicolon (;) to make the sentences grammatically correct. Remember: Use a colon to introduce a list or a clause that explains the first. Use a semicolon to join two closely related independent clauses.

Word bank: Colon (:) · Semicolon (;) · Independent clause · List · Punctuation · Explanation

1. Max gathered his favourite items for the maths challenge: a ruler, a protractor, a calculator and a stopwatch. (2 marks)

2. The history project was very difficult it required hours of research in the library. (2 marks)

3. Ellie the elephant remembered the three main rules for the trip: stay together, keep quiet and listen to the guide. (2 marks)

4. The sun began to set over the horizon the sky turned a beautiful shade of violet and gold. (2 marks)

5. Kit had only one goal for the computing competition to write the most efficient code possible. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the monkey sitting at a desk surrounded by his 'maths puzzles'. Show him holding a giant punctuation mark—either a colon or a semicolon—as if he is about to place it into a sentence floating above his head.

Extension challenge: Write two of your own sentences about Zara the zebra's art studio. In the first sentence, use a colon to introduce a list of art supplies. In the second sentence, use a semicolon to join two independent clauses about her painting process.