

Character Creator: The Expanded Noun Phrase Challenge

Learning objective: To use expanded noun phrases to add detail, precision and interest to character descriptions.

Today, we are helping Max the monkey describe the interesting creatures he meets on his travels. To do this, you need to use expanded noun phrases. An expanded noun phrase adds detail to a noun using adjectives and prepositional phrases (e.g., 'the fluffy, golden monkey with a mischievous grin'). Fill in the template below to create your own unique character.

Word bank: shimmering · ancient · towering · dreadlocked · enormous · with a secret to tell · beneath the twisted roots · clutching a silver key · vibrant · weather-beaten · observant

1. Choose a noun for your character (e.g., explorer, creature, inventor). Describe them using two adjectives before the noun and a prepositional phrase after the noun. (2 marks)

2. Describe the character's clothing or outer appearance using an expanded noun phrase. Focus on the textures or colours. (2 marks)

3. Describe an object this character is carrying using an expanded noun phrase. Include at least one adjective and a prepositional phrase. (2 marks)

4. Describe the setting where your character is standing. Use an expanded noun phrase to detail the environment. (2 marks)

5. Combine your answers above into a short, descriptive paragraph that introduces your character to the reader. (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Challenge: Add a second prepositional phrase to one of your noun phrases to make it even more detailed. Can you spot any places where you could use a relative clause instead?