Max’s Math Adventure: A Semicolon and Colon Diary Entry

Learning objective: To use colons and semicolons correctly to join related clauses and introduce lists within a creative piece of writing.

Help Max the monkey document his latest math puzzle adventure. In your diary entry, you must use a colon to introduce a list of items you used to solve a problem, and a semicolon to join two related independent clauses about your day. Use the word bank to help you construct your sentences.

Word bank: calculate · equation · strategy · conundrum · solution · investigate · thoroughly · accuracy

1. The Introduction: Briefly describe the math puzzle you found today. Use a semicolon to join two independent clauses describing what you saw and how you felt. (2 marks)

2. The Equipment List: Write a sentence explaining the items you needed to solve the puzzle. Use a colon to introduce your list of at least three items. (2 marks)

3. The Method: Explain the steps you took to work out the answer. Try to use one semicolon to connect two closely related ideas about your process. (2 marks)

4. The Discovery: Describe the final result of your calculation. Use a colon to introduce a final word or phrase that summarises your success. (2 marks)

5. Reflective Summary: Write a final sentence about why you enjoy math. Ensure you include one semicolon to link two balanced thoughts. (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Review your diary entry. Can you swap your semicolon for a conjunction? How does this change the rhythm and flow of your writing compared to using the semicolon?