Mastering Modal Verbs with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To understand, identify, and use modal verbs to indicate degrees of possibility, certainty, and obligation.

Read each question carefully. Remember that modal verbs change the meaning of a sentence by showing how likely something is or how necessary an action might be. Use the word bank to help you construct clear, precise sentences.

Max the Monkey is organising his collection of mathematical puzzles. He uses modal verbs to describe his plans and predictions.

Word bank: can · could · may · might · must · shall · should · will · would

1. Max says: 'I _____ finish my math puzzle by sunset.' Fill in the blank with a modal verb that shows a high level of certainty. Explain why you chose that word. (2 marks)

2. Rewrite this sentence to make the possibility lower: 'I will solve this puzzle.' Use a modal verb to change the meaning. (1 mark)

3. Identify the modal verb in this sentence: 'You should always double-check your calculations to ensure they are accurate.' Then, write your own sentence using 'must' to show a strong obligation. (2 marks)

4. Circle the modal verb in the following sentence: 'The monkey might find the answer if he looks closer at the pattern.' What does this modal verb suggest about the outcome? (2 marks)

5. Max has two puzzles. One is easy, one is hard. Write two sentences about these puzzles using at least one modal verb in each to show different levels of ability or possibility. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw Max the Monkey sitting in a tree, surrounded by floating geometric shapes and numbers. Show him looking thoughtful, as if he is deciding which puzzle to solve next.

Extension challenge: Imagine Max is planning a jungle adventure. Write a short paragraph (3-4 sentences) about his plans using at least four different modal verbs to express his intentions, possibilities, and rules for the trip.