

Grammar Adventures with Max and Zara

Learning objective: To identify and use fronted adverbials to express time, place, and manner, and to use commas correctly.

Read the story about Max and Zara below. Look for the fronted adverbials (phrases at the start of a sentence that describe when, where, or how something happens). Once you have answered the questions, follow the drawing prompt to illustrate the scene.

Max the monkey and Zara the zebra were exploring the forest. After the rain, the trees sparkled like diamonds. Across the meadow, Zara spotted a field of colourful wildflowers. Suddenly, Max jumped onto a low branch to get a better view. Quietly, they watched a group of birds building a nest. Happily, they returned home to write about their discoveries.

Word bank: Suddenly · In the distance · Quietly · After the rain · Across the meadow · Happily

1. Identify two fronted adverbials used in the story. Remember to look for the comma! (2 marks)

2. Why is there a comma after the word 'Suddenly' in the third sentence? (2 marks)

3. Write your own sentence about Max and Zara starting with the fronted adverbial: 'Inside the dark forest,' (2 marks)

4. Change the fronted adverbial 'After the rain' to a new one that describes a different time. Rewrite the sentence. (2 marks)

5. Which word in the passage is an adverb that tells us how they watched the birds? (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max and Zara standing in the meadow. Make sure you include the sparkling trees and the colourful wildflowers described in the story.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph about your own imaginary adventure. You must include at least two fronted adverbials and remember to place a comma after each one.