

Mastering the Flourish: Handwriting Practice

Learning objective: To use diagonal and horizontal strokes to join letters, and to increase the legibility, consistency and quality of handwriting.

Follow Max the monkey as he practises his neatest handwriting. Use a sharp pencil to trace the patterns, then copy the words carefully into your neatest joined-up script. Remember to keep your letters the same size and ensure your joins are smooth.

Max the monkey sat in the highest branch of the ancient oak tree. He loved to look at his notebook, filled with neat, joined-up writing. 'If I practise my joins every day,' Max thought, 'my work will be as clear as a map.' He picked up his pencil and carefully wrote the word 'magnificent' in his best cursive style, ensuring every letter touched the baseline.

Word bank: magnificent · mathematics · journey · breathtaking · caterpillar · adventure · knowledge

1. Why does Max think it is important to practise his joined-up handwriting every day? (2 marks)

2. Look at the word 'magnificent'. Can you identify which two letters have a diagonal join? Write them down. (1 mark)

3. Copy the word 'mathematics' below, ensuring you use a continuous flow for your joining strokes. (2 marks)

4. What does it mean for handwriting to be 'legible'? Explain in your own words. (2 marks)

5. Write a short sentence about one of Max's adventures using at least two words from the word bank, focusing on perfect joins. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the monkey sitting in his tree, holding his favourite notebook. In the empty space around him, draw swirling, decorative patterns that look like the curly, joined-up letters of the alphabet.



Extension challenge: Choose your three favourite long words from the word bank. Write a short, alliterative sentence for each one, ensuring your handwriting is perfectly joined and consistent in size.