

Mastering Joined Handwriting with Max and Zara

Learning objective: To practise consistent sizing, spacing, and the correct joining of letters to improve handwriting legibility.

Read the tips from Max the monkey and Zara the zebra, then complete the handwriting exercises and questions below.

Max loves maths, and he knows that handwriting is all about precision! To write neatly, keep your letters the same height. Ascenders (like b, d, h, k, l, t) should reach the top of the line, while descenders (like g, j, p, q, y) should dip neatly below the line. Zara the zebra looks for patterns in her art. She says that using 'flicks' at the end of your letters makes joining them together much easier. Remember to keep your spacing even, so your words do not squash together. Good handwriting makes your ideas easy for others to read!

Word bank: ascenders · descenders · legibility · loops · flicks · spacing · consistency

1. Max says ascenders should reach the top of the line. Can you name three letters that are ascenders? (3 marks)

2. Why does Zara suggest using 'flicks' at the end of your letters? (2 marks)

3. Copy this sentence using your best joined-up handwriting: 'The quick zebra jumped over the golden fence.' (2 marks)

4. Explain why it is important to keep even spacing between your words. (2 marks)

5. Look at the letters 'g' and 'j'. Why are these called descenders? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of a garden where the flowers have tall 'ascender' stems and the roots hang down like 'descenders'.



Extension challenge: Write a short poem about a jungle adventure using joined-up handwriting. Try to include at least three words with ascenders and three words with descenders.