

# Mastering the Art of Joined-up Handwriting

*Learning objective: To use a neat, joined handwriting style that increases legibility, consistency, and quality of writing.*

Follow Max the monkey's tips to make your letters flow. Remember to sit up straight, keep your paper at a slight angle, and make sure your letters are the same size. Always finish your sentence before dotting your 'i's or crossing your 't's!

Max the monkey sat at his desk with a pile of letters to write. He knows that when we join our letters, our writing becomes much faster and looks more professional. An ascender is the part of a letter that reaches up, like in 'b' or 'h'. A descender is the part that drops below the line, like in 'g' or 'y'. By using small, flicking strokes called ligatures, Max connects his letters smoothly. He focuses on keeping his 'o's and 'a's round and making sure his handwriting has a steady, rhythmic pattern across the page.

*Word bank: ascender · descender · cursive · ligature · legibility · flow · consistency*

**1. According to the passage, what is the special name for the small strokes used to connect letters? (2 marks)**

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**2. Name two letters from the alphabet that contain an 'ascender'. (2 marks)**

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**3. Why does Max believe it is important to join our letters together? (2 marks)**

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**4. Look at your own handwriting. Which letter do you find the most difficult to join to others, and why? (2 marks)**

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**5. Explain why it is helpful to wait until you finish a word before dotting your 'i' or 'j'. (2 marks)**

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**Draw:** Draw a picture of Max the monkey sitting at a desk with his favourite pen, showing how he holds his paper at a slight angle for perfect handwriting.



*Extension challenge: Choose a short poem by Leo the lion and rewrite it in your best cursive handwriting. Try to include at least three words that contain both an ascender and a descender.*