

Mastering Your Penmanship with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To understand the importance of consistent letter size, spacing, and the correct joining of letters in cursive handwriting.

Read the passage below about Max the Monkey's organised workspace. Then, answer the questions to show you understand how to keep your handwriting neat, joined, and legible.

Max the Monkey is very proud of his jungle office. He keeps his pencils sharpened and his paper perfectly straight on the desk. Max knows that when he writes in joined-up handwriting, he must be careful. He makes sure his 'tall' letters, like 'b' and 'l', reach the same height. He also ensures his 'tail' letters, like 'g' and 'j', drop neatly below the line. Max always checks that there is a small, even gap between each word so that his friends can read his notes easily. Neat writing is a gift to the person reading it!

Word bank: cursive · ascender · descender · legible · spacing · consistent · baseline · loops

1. According to the text, why is it important to have an even gap between each word? (2 marks)

2. Max talks about 'tall' letters and 'tail' letters. In your own words, what are these called in handwriting terminology and why do they need to be consistent? (2 marks)

3. Why do you think Max keeps his paper perfectly straight on the desk before he starts to write? (2 marks)

4. Look at the word 'legible' in the word bank. If a piece of writing is NOT legible, what does that mean for the reader? (2 marks)

5. Write a sentence about your favourite animal using joined-up cursive handwriting, ensuring you keep all letters on the baseline. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the Monkey sitting at his desk. Show him concentrating hard on his handwriting, making sure his paper is straight and his pencil is held correctly.



Extension challenge: Max wants to write a poem about the jungle. Write a four-line poem in your neatest cursive style, focusing on making your loops in letters like 'l', 'e', and 'f' all the same size.