

Mastering Joined-Up Handwriting with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To use diagonal and horizontal strokes to join letters in handwriting, ensuring consistent size and spacing.

Max the Monkey loves to solve puzzles, but his favourite puzzle is writing perfectly! Read the paragraph below about Max's morning routine. Copy the text onto the lines provided, focusing on using diagonal strokes to join your letters. Remember to keep your tall letters (like l, h, and t) reaching the top of the line and your 'descenders' (like p, g, and j) dipping below the line.

Max the Monkey woke up early to solve a tricky maths puzzle. He sat at his wooden desk and picked up his favourite pen. Max carefully joined his letters together, making sure his handwriting was neat and tidy. He practised his loops and curves until every word looked smooth. By lunchtime, Max felt proud of his beautiful, joined-up script.

Word bank: diagonal · ascender · descender · cursive · horizontal · consistent

1. Why does Max feel proud of his handwriting at the end of the passage? (2 marks)

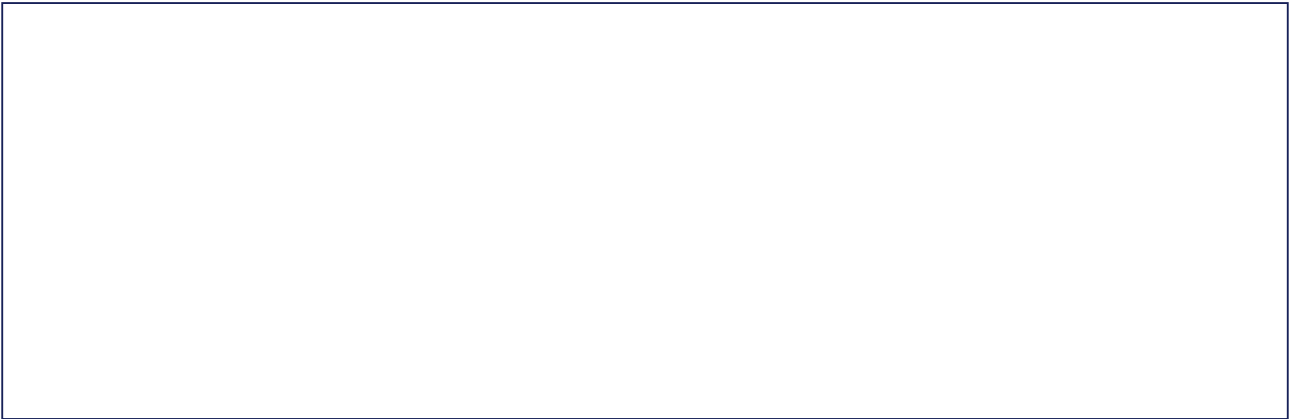
2. Identify two letters from the text that would be considered 'ascenders' because they reach high above the line. (2 marks)

3. Max uses diagonal strokes to join his letters. Explain why joining letters might make writing faster. (2 marks)

4. Copy this sentence using your best joined-up handwriting: 'The clever monkey solved the puzzle quickly.' (2 marks)

5. Find a word in the passage that contains a 'descender' (a letter that goes below the line).
(1 mark)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the Monkey sitting at his desk, surrounded by his neat handwriting practice sheets and a stack of maths puzzles.



Extension challenge: Write a short, three-sentence diary entry from Max's perspective about what he might do tomorrow, ensuring that every single letter in your paragraph is joined using a diagonal or horizontal stroke.