

# Mastering Joined-Up Handwriting with Max the Monkey

*Learning objective: To practice consistent joins and letter formation to improve handwriting legibility, fluency, and speed.*

Max the Monkey loves solving maths puzzles, but he needs neat handwriting to write his equations! Follow the steps below to practice your joins. Remember to keep your letters the same size and ensure your ascenders (like 'l' and 'h') and descenders (like 'g' and 'y') are clear.

Max the Monkey sat in the tall oak tree with his notebook. He loved to solve tricky sums. 'A good calculation needs clear handwriting,' Max told his friends. He practised joining his letters carefully. He made sure his 'l' reached the top of the line and his 'y' curled neatly below the base line. When his work was tidy, he could read his answers quickly and find the right solution for every puzzle.

*Word bank: calculation · equation · monkey · puzzle · solution · pattern · geometry*

**1. Copy the following sentence from the passage into your best joined-up handwriting: 'Max the Monkey sat in the tall oak tree.' (2 marks)**

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**2. Look at the word 'calculation'. Which letters are ascenders that should reach the top of the line? (2 marks)**

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**3. Max says that neat handwriting helps him find the 'right solution'. Why might messy handwriting make it difficult to solve a maths problem? (2 marks)**

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**4. Practise writing these three words using a continuous cursive join: 'monkey', 'puzzle', 'geometry'. (3 marks)**

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**5. Why is it important for the descender on the letter 'y' to sit below the line in your handwriting? (2 marks)**

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**Draw:** Draw a picture of Max the Monkey in his oak tree, and write a short, neat sentence below your drawing explaining what he is doing.



*Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph (3-4 sentences) about your favourite subject at school. Focus on keeping your letters consistent in size and ensuring every letter is joined correctly to the next.*