

Mastering Joined-Up Handwriting with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To use diagonal and horizontal strokes to join letters and increase handwriting fluency.

Max the Monkey is practising his neatest handwriting to write a letter to his friends in the jungle. Follow the steps below to improve your own cursive style. 1. Trace the patterns at the top of the page. 2. Copy the sentences focusing on where the lead-in strokes connect. 3. Ensure your ascenders (like b, d, h) and descenders (like g, j, p) are the correct height and depth.

Max the monkey climbed the tall oak tree to see the sunset. He carefully held his pen to write a message to Pip the caterpillar. 'Dear Pip,' he wrote, 'I hope your day is full of learning and joy. Let us meet by the river tomorrow to solve some tricky maths puzzles together. Your friend, Max.'

Word bank: caterpillar · adventure · fluency · diagonal · horizontal · connection · ascender · descender

1. Why is it important to use a 'lead-in' stroke when joining letters? (2 marks)

2. Look at the word 'monkey' in the passage. Which letters are ascenders and which are descenders? (2 marks)

3. Max wants to write the word 'puzzle'. Can you write the word 'puzzle' in your best cursive handwriting, showing the joins between each letter? (2 marks)

4. How can sitting up straight and placing your paper at a slight angle help you write more neatly? (2 marks)

5. Rewrite this sentence in your best joined-up handwriting: 'The brave lion Leo writes beautiful poetry.' (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the Monkey sitting at a wooden desk with a notebook and a fountain pen, carefully practising his alphabet.



Extension challenge: Try writing a short poem about the forest in your neatest cursive style. Make sure every letter is joined correctly, and try to keep your spacing between words even.