

Mastering Paragraphs with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To understand how to organise a piece of writing into logical paragraphs using topic sentences.

Read the story about Max the Monkey below. It is currently one big block of text. Your task is to show where the paragraphs should start and end. Use a symbol like // to mark where you would press 'enter' to start a new paragraph, then answer the questions.

Max the Monkey lived in a tall, leafy tree in the middle of the jungle. Every morning, he woke up early to search for his favourite breakfast, which was ripe, yellow bananas. He had a special way of counting them to make sure he had enough for his friends. One sunny Tuesday, Max decided to build a new bridge across the stream. He gathered long, sturdy vines and tied them together with clever knots. He measured the distance carefully with his paws to make sure it was safe for everyone to cross. By the afternoon, the bridge was finished and strong enough to hold a whole troop of monkeys. Max felt very proud of his hard work and spent the rest of the day relaxing in the shade.

Word bank: paragraph · topic sentence · structure · logical · grouping · theme · punctuation

1. Identify the two main themes in the passage. Where should the second paragraph begin? (2 marks)

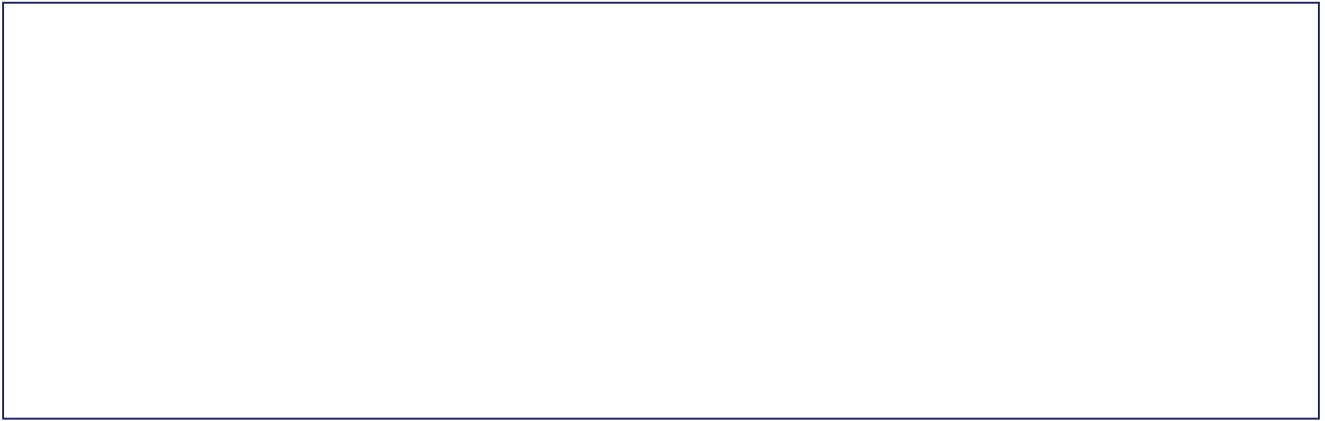
2. Write a 'topic sentence' for the first paragraph that introduces Max's morning routine. (2 marks)

3. Why is it important to use paragraphs when writing a story? Explain your answer. (2 marks)

4. If Max bought more vines for his bridge, and each bundle cost £2, how much would 5 bundles cost? (1 mark)

5. Find a word in the text that means the same as 'strong'. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max's bridge across the stream, including the jungle surroundings mentioned in the text.



Extension challenge: Write a third paragraph for this story describing what Max and his friends did that evening once the bridge was finished. Remember to start with a clear topic sentence!