

# Max the Monkey's Phonics Adventure

*Learning objective: To identify and use alternative graphemes for phonemes, specifically focusing on the 'ai' sound (ai, ay, a-e, eigh).*

Read the story below and help Max identify the different ways to spell the 'ai' sound. Answer the questions carefully using your best handwriting.

Max the monkey was feeling very excited. Today was the day of the Great Jungle Race! He had been training all week, running along the dusty trail. 'I hope it does not rain today,' Max said, looking up at the grey clouds. His friend, a small bird named Pip, chirped, 'Don't worry, Max! You have the strength of eight lions and the speed of a cheetah. Just stay focused on the finish line.' Max felt a surge of pride. He knew if he could maintain his pace, he might just win the trophy. He felt like a real champion as he headed to the starting post.

*Word bank: train · play · cake · weight · rain · stay · fame · eight*

**1. Find and list four different words from the passage that contain the 'ai' sound, even if they are spelled differently. (4 marks)**

---

---

**2. Max thinks everything is a maths puzzle. Can you spot the word in the passage that represents the number 8 but uses the 'eigh' spelling for the 'ai' sound? (1 mark)**

**3. Why was Max worried about the weather? Explain using a full sentence. (2 marks)**

---

**4. Write a sentence of your own using the word 'play', which also uses the 'ay' spelling for the 'ai' sound. (2 marks)**

---

**5. Look at the word 'cake' from the word bank. Explain why it has an 'e' at the end. (2 marks)**

---

---

**Draw:** Draw a picture of Max the monkey crossing the finish line of the Great Jungle Race. Label your drawing with three words that contain the 'ai' sound.



*Extension challenge: Can you think of three more words that use the 'a-e' split digraph (like 'cake')? Write them down and then write a short, funny story using all three words.*