

Sentence Structure Detective with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To identify and use fronted adverbials, conjunctions, and expanded noun phrases to improve sentence structure.

Read the story below. Max the Monkey has been busy building a treehouse, but he needs your help to organise his sentences. Read the text carefully and then answer the questions to complete your training as a Sentence Detective.

High in the leafy canopy, Max the Monkey gathered his tools. He needed a sturdy hammer, some long, silver nails, and a thick, brown rope. After he finished his breakfast, Max began to build. He worked quickly because he wanted to finish before sunset. Although it was hard work, he felt very proud. Suddenly, a bright, colourful parrot landed on the branch nearby to watch him work.

Word bank: fronted adverbial · conjunction · expanded noun phrase · comma · subordinate clause

1. Identify one fronted adverbial used in the passage and explain why it needs a comma. (2 marks)

2. Find an expanded noun phrase in the second sentence. Write it down and circle the adjectives used. (2 marks)

3. Copy the sentence that contains a conjunction. Underline the conjunction you found. (2 marks)

4. Max wants to add more detail. Rewrite this sentence using an expanded noun phrase: 'Max held the hammer.' (2 marks)

5. Write your own sentence about Max starting with a fronted adverbial of time. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the Monkey's treehouse based on the description in the passage. Make sure you label at least two parts of the treehouse using expanded noun phrases (e.g., 'the wobbly, wooden ladder').



Extension challenge: Challenge: Write a short paragraph (3-4 sentences) describing a new invention for Max. You must include one fronted adverbial, two conjunctions, and at least one expanded noun phrase.