

Dear Diary,



What an extraordinary day! It all began very early at 5 o'clock this morning when I suddenly felt the urge to play on my X-Box. I turned it on but a message pinged up onto my screen: 'Click link to download the latest add-ons'. I clicked it and the blue bar crept slowly to its finish line. I felt frustrated waiting...98%. 99%...then a blinding flash of light. The screen went black.

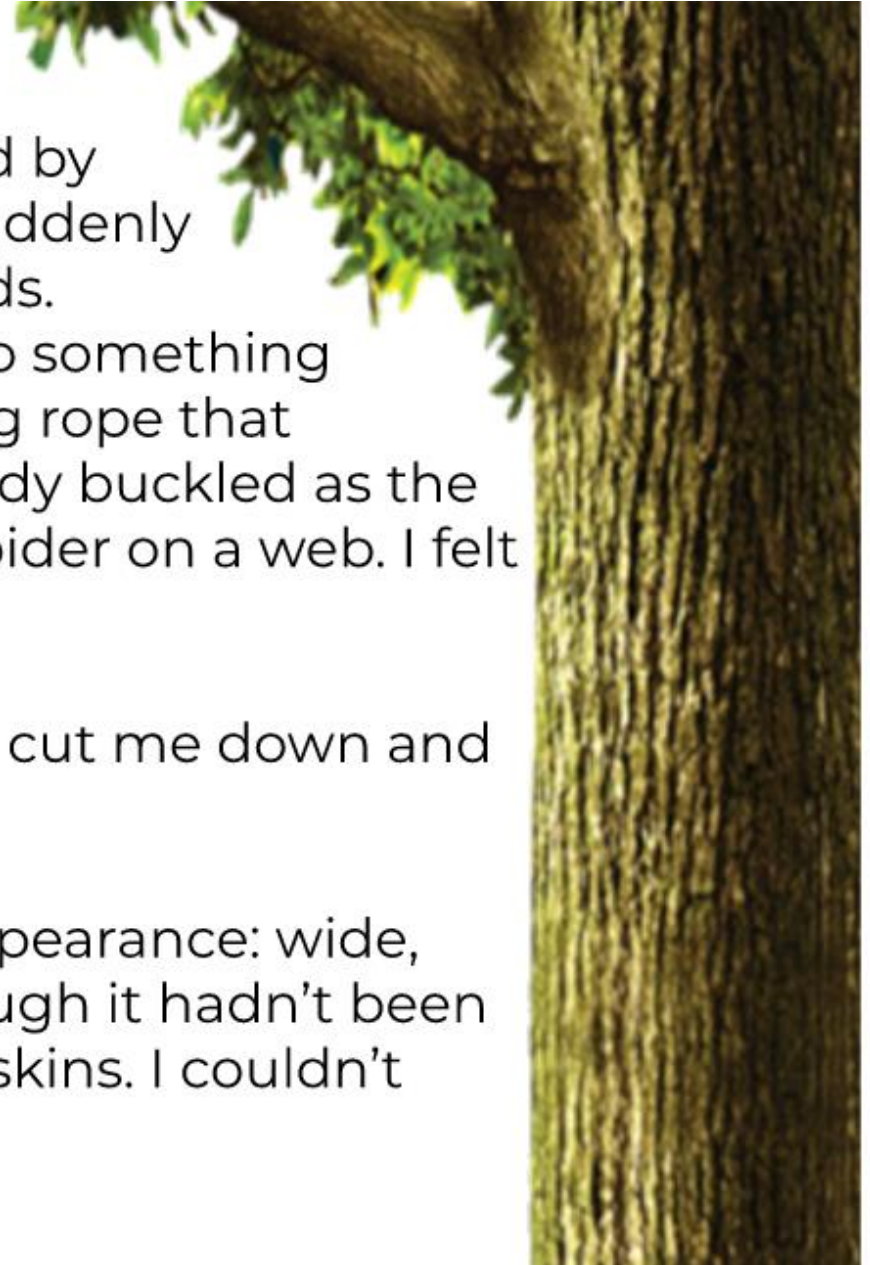
The next thing I remember is being transported to somewhere I didn't recognise and trying to make sense of my surroundings. I could feel emerald-green leaves tickling my skin and a pungent scent made my eyes water. Up above, the sun's rays danced on my pale skin sneaking between the arms of the rainforest trees.



Suddenly, there was a creaking noise...followed by a crack! Whatever had been holding me up suddenly gave way, sending me plummeting downwards. Flailing my arms frantically, I tried to grab onto something and luckily my hands managed to grasp a long rope that snaked down the side of the tree trunk. My body buckled as the rope pulled taut, leaving me dangling like a spider on a web. I felt bewildered.

Unexpectedly, from out of nowhere, someone cut me down and demanded: "Hurry! Now!"

I tried to make sense of this stranger's feral appearance: wide, brown eyes; matted hair (which looked as though it hadn't been washed in years) and clothes made of animal skins. I couldn't work out who this person was or where I was.



Then, she shouted, “We need to collect ten bananas to get to the next level!” and soared high into the sky, landing on what can only be described as a turtle’s back! Momentarily stunned, the peculiar creature stood still. Breaking into a spin, the jungle woman moved closer again to the turtle, collided with him and he disappeared without a trace. At that very moment, the well-known phrase sounded: “You’ve gained a life!”

It hit me: I was in my video game!

A few minutes later, on the path up ahead I could see something floating in mid-air - it was a banana! I couldn’t believe my eyes! Bananas weren’t easy to find in the midst of the dense forest! Two of them had to be prised out of the hands of an angry monkey. I managed to keep hold of all my lives and make a perilous trek through a rainforest but the last task wasn’t easy because the final banana sat right in the middle of a vast maze of venomous plants.



As I made my way forward, I was horrified as the first plant stretched out its head towards me, opened its mouth wide and ferociously snapped the air where I had stood just seconds before, like a crocodile attacking its prey. Swinging vine to vine, I dodged the vicious plants, staying focused on my quest to collect the last banana.

I ducked. I dived. I darted. Finally, I squeezed my eyes tightly together and vaulted towards the centre of the maze. Everything went black.

Now I am back here in my bedroom and I had just started to convince myself that I'd fallen back to sleep and dreamt the whole thing but I have just noticed the banana on my bed! I wonder what tomorrow will bring...

Timmy



SPAG Posters

SPaG focus: Expanded noun phrase

What are **expanded noun phrases**?

An expanded noun phrase is a phrase made up of **a noun and at least one adjective**. If one or more adjectives are listed to describe the noun, a comma should be added to separate the sentence.



Expanded noun phrases

For example:

The red sports car drove down the long, winding road.

In this sentence, "red sports" is describing the car and "long, winding" is describing the road.

Expanded noun phrases can be used to build upon description.



Coordinating conjunctions

We use coordinating conjunctions to join two parts of a sentence that are of **equal weight or importance**.

We can remember them by using the mnemonic device: **FANBOYS**

For example:
*I'd like pizza **and** salad for lunch.*

Coordinating conjunctions

For
And
Nor
But
Or
Yet
So



Subordinating conjunctions

A subordinating conjunction **introduces** a subordinate clause (a clause that does not make sense on its own),

For example:

Because *it was raining,*
I wore my wellies.

Subordinating conjunctions	
Although	Even though
As	Whereas
After	In addition
Because	Until
Before	When
Since	While
Whilst	Despite



Diary Success Criteria

To be successful...



Feature	Example
1st person	The next thing I remember is
Past tense & chronological	It all began...
Expanded noun phrases	emerald-green leaves; pungent scent
Coordinating and subordinating conjunctions	Whilst, because, And, but
Adverbials	Suddenly; unexpectedly
Informal	I couldn't work out...
Emotive (feelings/emotions/reactions)	I felt frustrated

