

Max the Monkey's Theatre Scripts Quiz

Learning objective: To identify and use the features of a playscript, including stage directions, character names, and dialogue.

Max the Monkey has been busy writing a play about the jungle! Read the questions carefully and test your knowledge of how playscripts are written. Use the word bank to help you.

Answer Key: 1. A, 2. B, 3. True, 4. Stage directions, 5. C, 6. False, 7. Dialogue, 8. A, 9. C, 10. False. (Note: Stage directions are usually in brackets or italics to show actors how to move or speak.)

Word bank: stage directions · dialogue · scene · character · brackets · setting

1. 1. Where should the name of the character speaking be placed in a playscript? A) At the start of the line, followed by a colon* B) At the end of the line C) In the middle of the sentence D) Only at the very bottom of the page (1 mark)

2. 2. What are the words written in brackets that tell the actor how to act or move called? A) Script notes B) Stage directions* C) Action plans D) Dialogue cues (1 mark)

3. 3. True or False: Playscripts do not use speech marks (inverted commas) for the characters' spoken words. (True/False) (1 mark)

4. 4. What is the technical term for the 'set of instructions' that tells the actors how to behave on stage? (1 mark)

5. 5. Which of these is NOT a feature of a playscript? A) Character list B) Scene headings C) Chapter titles* D) Stage directions (1 mark)

6. 6. True or False: A playscript is written in the past tense because the action has already happened. (True/False) (1 mark)

7. 7. What do we call the words that the characters actually say to each other? (1 mark)

8. 8. Why are stage directions often written in a different font or inside brackets? A) To show they are not spoken aloud* B) To make the script look pretty C) To confuse the actors D) To hide the secrets of the play (1 mark)

9. 9. Before the play starts, a playscript usually lists the: A) Price of tickets B) Audience members C) Characters in the play* D) Reviewers (1 mark)

10. 10. True or False: You should always write your own name at the start of every line of dialogue. (True/False) (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a scene from a play where Max the Monkey is looking for a lost banana. Include one character name and one stage direction in brackets (e.g., [Max looks under the leaf excitedly]).



Extension challenge: Write a short playscript (four lines of dialogue) between Pip the caterpillar and Nova the owl, where they discuss what they want to be when they grow up.