

Mastering Speech Marks with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To use inverted commas (speech marks) accurately to punctuate direct speech in Year 4 writing.

Read each sentence carefully. Add inverted commas, capital letters for the start of speech, and the correct punctuation inside the speech marks. Remember, Max the Monkey loves to get his maths puzzles right, so make sure your punctuation is just as precise!

Max the Monkey is busy solving maths puzzles in the jungle. He likes to talk to his friends while he works.

Word bank: inverted commas · speech marks · direct speech · punctuation · capital letter

1. Max looked at the banana and shouted, i have found a pattern in these peels. Add the missing speech marks and capital letter. (2 marks)

2. Rewrite this sentence correctly: Pip the caterpillar asked are you ready to count the leaves? (2 marks)

3. Add the correct punctuation to this sentence: Ellie the elephant whispered, I remember where the river is (2 marks)

4. Explain where you place the full stop or question mark when you are using speech marks. Does it go inside or outside the inverted commas? (2 marks)

5. Write your own sentence where Nova the owl says, 'Look at the bright stars tonight!' Make sure your speech marks are placed correctly. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the Monkey holding a chalkboard with a maths equation on it, and draw a speech bubble coming from his mouth to show what he is saying.



Extension challenge: Write a short conversation between two of the BookFlik characters (like Kit the fox and Bea the bee) about a discovery they made in the forest. You must include at least three lines of punctuated direct speech.