

Max's Market Maths Punctuation Challenge

Learning objective: To use direct speech, commas, and apostrophes for possession correctly in a narrative context.

Read the story below about Max the monkey. Identify the missing punctuation marks and rewrite the sentences correctly, ensuring you include speech marks and the correct use of apostrophes.

Max the monkey was at the local market helping his friends. He looked at the stall keeper and said I would like to buy five bananas for my lunch please. Max carefully placed the bananas into his friend Ellys basket. Oh look at that monkey said a shopper pointing at the stall. Max smiled and replied it is a very busy day for a monkey.

Word bank: possessive apostrophe · inverted commas · comma · speech · capital letter

1. Find the sentence where Max speaks to the stall keeper. Rewrite it, adding inverted commas (speech marks) and the necessary punctuation. (2 marks)

2. Explain why there is an apostrophe in the word 'Ellys' (if it were written 'Elly's'). What does it show? (2 marks)

3. Rewrite the sentence: 'Oh look at that monkey said a shopper pointing at the stall.' Add the missing inverted commas and a comma after the word 'monkey'. (2 marks)

4. Why do we use inverted commas in a story? Explain your answer using an example from the passage. (2 marks)

5. Max has a bag of coins. If he buys three apples at 40p each, how much does he spend in total? Write the answer using the £ symbol. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the monkey at the market stall, surrounded by baskets of fruit and holding a notepad to count his items.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph about a shopping trip with your favourite BookFlik character. Use at least one example of direct speech and one example of a possessive apostrophe (e.g., Pip's book, Zara's paintbrush).