

Year 4 English Assessment: The Art of the Apostrophe

Learning objective: To demonstrate accurate use of apostrophes for singular possession and contractions.

Read each question carefully. Ensure your handwriting is clear and check your punctuation before submitting your paper.

Max the monkey is busy organising his library. He has labelled all the books with care. 'This is Pip's favourite story,' Max chirps, pointing to a small book. 'It's a wonderful tale about a forest. If you've finished reading it, please put it back on the shelf. Don't forget to check the author's name on the spine!'

Word bank: contraction · possession · singular · omitted · ownership

1. Identify two contractions used in the passage and write the full words they represent. (2 marks)

2. Explain the difference between an apostrophe used for possession and an apostrophe used for a contraction. Provide one original example of each. (3 marks)

3. Rewrite the following sentences by adding the apostrophe in the correct position: 1. The owls feathers were soft. 2. It is time to go home. 3. The lions roar echoed through the plains. (3 marks)

4. Max found an item belonging to each of his friends. Write a sentence for each using a singular possessive apostrophe: A hat belonging to Kit, a pencil belonging to Zara, and a book belonging to Ellie. (3 marks)

5. Why do we use an apostrophe when we write 'cannot' as 'can't'? Explain what happens to the letters during this process. (2 marks)

6. Look at this sentence: 'The dogs bowl was empty.' Is this sentence clear? Explain why the placement of the apostrophe is vital for the reader's understanding of ownership. (4 marks)

7. Creative Writing Task: Write a short paragraph (4-6 sentences) describing a day out with Nova the owl. You must include at least two examples of singular possession and two examples of contractions. Underline your apostrophes. (5 marks)

8. Max has £5.50 to spend on new books. If he buys a book for £2.25 and a bookmark for 80p, how much change does he have? Write your answer as a sentence including a contraction. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the monkey sorting his library books. Add a speech bubble for Max that contains at least one contraction.



Extension challenge: Justify your answer: If we removed all apostrophes from the English language, what might happen to the clarity of our writing? Provide examples to support your argument. Total: /25