

Max's Magnificent Market Maths: Mastering Apostrophes

Learning objective: To understand and use apostrophes for possession and contraction in Year 4 writing.

Read the story below about Max the monkey at the local market. Identify where apostrophes are missing or used incorrectly. Rewrite the sentences to show possession (who owns what) or contraction (shortened words).

Max the monkey was on a mission at the market. He noticed the fruit merchant stall looked very busy. Max saw the merchants red apple and the monkeys banana sitting on a wooden crate. 'I do not want to lose my snack,' Max thought, 'but it is time to go home.' He looked for his friend, but he could not find her. Max sighed, 'The day is almost over, and I haven't finished my shopping!'

Word bank: Max's · monkey's · don't · it's · couldn't · merchant's · fruit's

1. Identify two examples of possession in the passage and explain why the apostrophe is placed where it is. (2 marks)

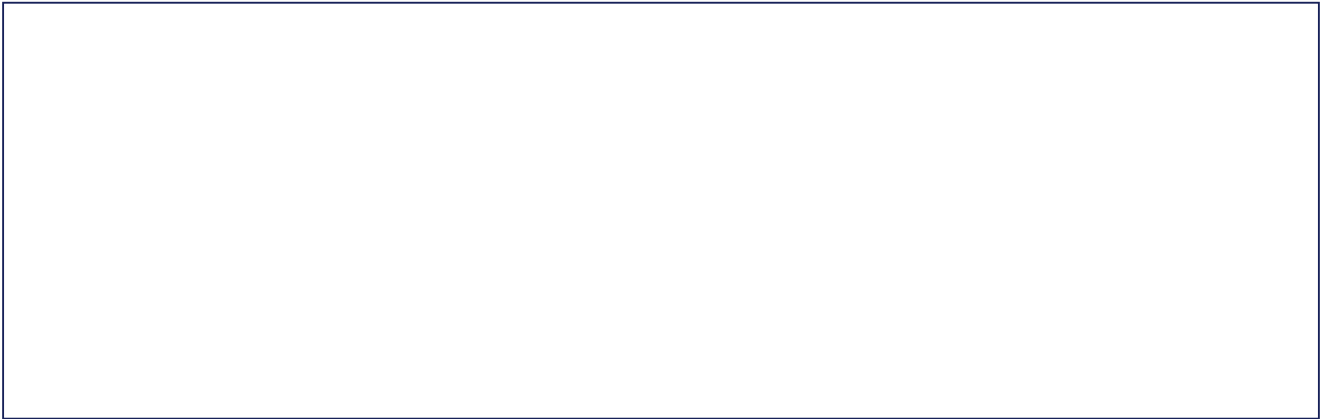
2. Find the word 'don't' or 'couldn't' in the passage. Write the two words that make up the contraction and explain which letter has been replaced by the apostrophe. (2 marks)

3. Rewrite this sentence correctly using an apostrophe: 'The tail of the monkey was long and curly.' (1 mark)

4. Explain why 'it's' (it is) and 'its' (belonging to something) are different. Give an example sentence for each. (3 marks)

5. If Max had five friends with five separate bags, how would you write 'the bags of the friends' using an apostrophe? Justify your punctuation choice. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene at the market where Max is holding a basket of fruit. Label three items using possessive apostrophes (e.g., 'Max's apple', 'the basket's handle').



Extension challenge: Imagine Max meets a merchant who sells magical items. Write a short paragraph (4-6 sentences) describing three items for sale. You must include at least two contractions (e.g., won't, can't) and two possessive apostrophes (e.g., merchant's, wizard's). Explain why your punctuation choices are necessary for the reader to understand who owns each item.