

Scriptwriter's Studio: Writing for the Stage

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

Follow this scaffold to write a short scene featuring Max the monkey solving a tricky maths puzzle. Remember to use a colon after character names and put stage directions in brackets.

The scene opens in a messy workshop where Max is staring at a pile of scattered wooden blocks.

Word bank: suddenly · excitedly · scratching his head · therefore · consequently · meanwhile · anxiously · triumphantly · in the middle of the room

1. Character Introduction: Introduce Max and describe his current mood using a stage direction. Start with: [Max enters the room...] (2 marks)

2. The Problem: Write a line of dialogue for Max where he explains the maths puzzle he is trying to solve. Start with: Max: 'Oh dear, this sum is quite a challenge! I need to...' (2 marks)

3. Adding Detail: Describe what Max does next with his hands or equipment to help him think. Start with: [Max begins to...] (2 marks)

4. The Turning Point: Write a line of dialogue where Max has a 'lightbulb moment' and finds the answer. Start with: Max: 'Wait a moment! If I calculate...' (2 marks)

5. The Conclusion: Describe how the scene ends and how Max feels now that his puzzle is solved. Start with: [Max beams with pride as...] (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Challenge: Add a second character, such as Pip the bookworm, to enter the scene. Write a short conversation between them where Pip tries to help Max solve the puzzle using a different method.