

Max's Magnificent Punctuation Puzzle

Learning objective: To accurately use and identify a range of punctuation, including commas, possessive apostrophes, inverted commas, and exclamation marks within Year 4 standards.

Max the monkey has been busy organising his mathematical word puzzles, but he has forgotten his punctuation! Read each question carefully and help him fix his sentences.

Answer Key: 1.C, 2.True, 3.A, 4.False, 5.Inverted commas, 6.B, 7.True, 8.A, 9.False, 10.Apostrophe. Note: For Q3, the correct sentence is: 'Max shouted, "Look at the numbers!"'

Word bank: Apostrophe · Inverted commas · Comma · Full stop · Exclamation mark · Possession · Direct speech

1. 1. Which punctuation mark is used to show that something belongs to a person or animal? A) Full stop B) Comma C) Apostrophe* D) Exclamation mark (1 mark)
2. 2. True or False: You should always use a comma after a fronted adverbial in a sentence. (1 mark)
3. 3. Which sentence is punctuated correctly? A) Max shouted, "Look at the numbers!"* B) Max shouted "Look at the numbers!" C) Max shouted, Look at the numbers! D) Max shouted: "Look at the numbers!" (1 mark)
4. 4. True or False: In the phrase 'the monkeys banana', the apostrophe is in the correct place. (1 mark)
5. 5. What is the name of the punctuation marks used to show the exact words spoken by a character? (1 mark)
6. 6. Where should the comma go in this sentence? 'After the maths lesson we played outside.' A) After 'maths' B) After 'lesson'* C) After 'played' D) No comma needed. (1 mark)
7. 7. True or False: An exclamation mark is used to show strong emotion or surprise. (1 mark)
8. 8. Which word requires an apostrophe for possession? A) Kittens B) Jumped C) Quickly D) Running (1 mark)

9. 9. True or False: You must always put a full stop inside the inverted commas when finishing a piece of direct speech. (1 mark)

10. 10. In the sentence 'The lion's roar was loud', what is the name of the mark after the 'n'? (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a scene where Max the monkey is holding a giant pencil, trying to fix a messy sentence written on a blackboard. Include an apostrophe, a comma, and an exclamation mark floating around him like magical stars.



Extension challenge: Greater Depth Questions: 1. Explain why it is vital to distinguish between a plural noun (e.g., monkeys) and a possessive noun (e.g., monkey's). 2. Compare and contrast the use of a comma and a full stop. When does the rhythm of a sentence change? 3. Justify why an author might choose to use an exclamation mark instead of a full stop at the end of a sentence. 4. What might happen to the meaning of the sentence 'Let's eat, Grandma' if the comma was removed? 5. Write a short paragraph of at least four sentences describing a hunt for hidden treasure, ensuring you include a fronted adverbial with a comma and one example of direct speech. 6. Examine the sentence 'The birds nest is empty.' Is the apostrophe missing? Explain your reasoning.