

Max's Magnificent Punctuation Puzzle

Learning objective: To identify and understand the purpose of commas, apostrophes, and speech marks in a short narrative.

Read the story about Max the monkey below. Use the information in the text to answer the questions that follow, ensuring you use full sentences.

Max the monkey sat in his favorite tree, clutching a shiny, golden banana. He loved solving math puzzles, but today he was stuck on a different challenge: punctuation. 'Why are these marks so important?' he chattered to himself. Below him, Pip the caterpillar was busy munching on a leaf. 'They help our writing make sense,' Pip replied, pointing at his own collection of tiny, curled leaves. 'Without them, sentences would be a jumble of words.' Max looked at the page in his lap. He saw an apostrophe showing that the banana belonged to him—Max's lunch. He saw commas separating items in a list: apples, pears, and grapes. Finally, he spotted speech marks around Pip's words. Max realized that punctuation was just like a clever code. It told the reader when to pause, who was speaking, and who owned what. With a happy squeak, Max picked up his pencil. He carefully added a full stop to his work, feeling proud of his progress. He decided that writing was just as exciting as a tricky math equation.

Word bank: Punctuation · Apostrophe · Comma · Speech marks · Possession · Clauses

1. Find two examples of items in a list mentioned in the text. (2 marks)

2. According to the text, what does the apostrophe in 'Max's lunch' tell the reader? (2 marks)

3. Why do you think Pip describes sentences without punctuation as a 'jumble of words'? (2 marks)

4. How does Max feel about learning to use punctuation by the end of the story? (2 marks)

5. Do you agree with Max that writing is as exciting as a math equation? Explain your answer. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the monkey sitting in his tree, holding a pencil and paper, with Pip the caterpillar talking to him from a nearby branch.



Extension challenge: Write three sentences of your own about Max. In your first sentence, use a comma to list three things he likes. In your second, use an apostrophe for possession. In your third, use speech marks to show Max talking to his friend.