

Max's Market Stall: The Case of the Missing Apostrophe

Learning objective: To accurately use apostrophes for possession and contraction in sentences.

Max the monkey is running a fruit stall. He has written some signs for his items, but he has been a bit messy! Some signs need apostrophes for possession (e.g., The monkey's banana) and some need them for contractions (e.g., It's ripe). Read the sentences below and insert the apostrophes in the correct places. For the Greater Depth questions, explain the reasoning behind your choices.

Word bank: Max's · don't · monkey's · it's · can't · stall's · they're · pears'

1. The monkeys banana is yellow. (Add the apostrophe to show the banana belongs to the monkey). (2 marks)

2. It is a sunny day, so the fruit is fresh. (Rewrite using a contraction for 'It is'). (2 marks)

3. Max says: You do not need to worry, the price is fair. (Rewrite using a contraction for 'do not'). (2 marks)

4. The pears skins are smooth. (Add the apostrophe to show the skins belong to the pears). (2 marks)

5. Explain why 'The dog's bowl' uses an apostrophe, but 'The dogs played' does not. Justify your answer. (3 marks)

6. Compare and contrast the meaning of 'Its' and 'It's'. What might happen if you missed the apostrophe in a sentence? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw Max the monkey standing proudly behind his market stall. Label three items on his stall using apostrophes for possession (e.g., 'Max's apples').



Extension challenge: Write a short, persuasive advertisement for Max's stall. You must include at least two examples of possessive apostrophes and two examples of contractions. Can you challenge yourself to use an apostrophe for a plural noun ending in 's'?