

Max the Monkey's Apostrophe Adventure

Learning objective: To accurately identify and use apostrophes for possession and omission in Year 4 English.

Help Max the Monkey sort out his grammar puzzles! Use your knowledge of apostrophes to complete the quiz. Remember: an apostrophe for omission shows where letters have been removed, and an apostrophe for possession shows that something belongs to someone.

Answer Key: 1.C, 2.A, 3.False, 4.The monkey's tail, 5.B, 6.True, 7.don't, 8.A, 9.The cat's whiskers, 10.B.
Explanation: Apostrophes for omission (like 'don't') replace letters, while apostrophes for possession (like 'monkey's') show that an item belongs to the noun.

Word bank: Apostrophe · Omission · Possession · Contraction · Ownership

1. Which sentence uses an apostrophe for OMISSION correctly? A) Max's bananas are yellow. B) The monkey's hungry. C) Max shouldn't eat all the fruit.* D) He's a greedy monkey. (1 mark)

2. What does the apostrophe in 'it's' (meaning 'it is') represent? A) A missing letter* B) Possession C) A plural D) A verb (1 mark)

3. True or False: We use an apostrophe when we want to make a word plural (e.g., 'three apple's'). (1 mark)

4. Max has a very long tail. Write this as a possessive phrase using an apostrophe. (1 mark)

5. Which of these is a contraction? A) Zebra's B) Can't* C) Lion's D) Tree's (1 mark)

6. True or False: The apostrophe in 'Zara's stripes' shows that the stripes belong to Zara. (1 mark)

7. Write the contraction for 'do not'. (1 mark)

8. Choose the correctly punctuated sentence: A) The bird's nest was high. * B) The birds' nest was high. (singular) C) The birds nest's was high. D) The birds nest was' high. (1 mark)

9. The cat has whiskers. Write this using an apostrophe for possession. (1 mark)

10. Where does the apostrophe go in 'I would' when turned into a contraction? A) I'woud B) I'd* C) Iw'ould D) Iwo'uld (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the Monkey holding a sign that says 'Max's Bananas' and another sign that says 'I'm hungry'.



Extension challenge: 1. Explain why 'The dogs' bones' and 'The dog's bone' have the apostrophe in different places. 2. Justify why we use apostrophes for omission in informal writing but avoid them in formal reports. 3. Compare and contrast how an apostrophe changes the meaning of 'lets' versus 'let's'. 4. What might happen to the meaning of a sentence if an apostrophe is placed incorrectly? Provide an example. 5. Write a short paragraph about your favourite animal using at least three possessive apostrophes and two contractions. 6. If you were teaching a younger child how to use an apostrophe, what mnemonic or 'golden rule' would you create to help them remember the difference between possession and omission?