

Max's Magnificent Market Maths

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

Read the text below carefully, paying close attention to the punctuation marks. Answer the questions in full sentences, ensuring you explain your reasoning where required.

Max the monkey loves the local market. It's a busy place, and Max can't resist solving the traders' puzzles. Today, he noticed the baker's stall was overflowing with golden loaves. 'I've never seen so much bread!' Max cheered. The baker's wife smiled and handed him a treat. Nearby, the florist's flowers looked vibrant. Max wondered, 'Who's going to buy all these?' He saw a sign that read: 'We're open until five.' Max knew that the apostrophe in 'we're' showed a contraction of 'we are'. However, the apostrophes in 'baker's' and 'florist's' showed possession, meaning the items belonged to those people. Max quickly calculated the cost of three apples at £1.50 each. 'That's £4.50,' he told the fruit seller. The seller laughed because the monkey's maths was spot on. Max felt proud. He didn't just enjoy the sights; he loved how punctuation helped make the world's meaning clear. Whether it's a contraction or showing who owns what, Max knows that every little mark tells a story.

Word bank: possession · contraction · omission · singular · plural · punctuation

1. Identify two examples of contractions used in the passage and explain which two words they represent. (2 marks) (2 marks)

2. Find two examples of apostrophes used for possession in the text. (2 marks) (2 marks)

3. Why does the author state that the baker's wife 'smiled' when Max arrived? (2 marks) (2 marks)

4. Based on the text, why is it important for Max to understand the difference between possession and contraction? (2 marks) (2 marks)

5. Do you think Max is a helpful character at the market? Use evidence from the text to justify your opinion. (3 marks) (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the monkey standing at a market stall. Include one sign that uses an apostrophe for possession (e.g., 'The baker's bread') and one sign that uses a contraction (e.g., 'We're open').



Extension challenge: Write three sentences of your own about a trip to a shop. Include one sentence with a possessive apostrophe (e.g., 'The shopkeeper's apron') and one sentence with a contraction (e.g., 'It's very busy').