

Max's Maths Market: Apostrophes for Possession

Learning objective: To understand and use apostrophes to show singular and plural possession correctly.

Read the story about Max the monkey's market stall. Look carefully at where the apostrophes are placed. Then, answer the questions below to help Max organise his shop stock.

Max the monkey was very excited to open his market stall. He had spent all morning sorting his goods. The monkey's bananas were stacked in perfect yellow pyramids. Nearby, the children's baskets were lined up ready for shoppers. Max checked the labels on his shelves. He noticed the farmers' apples were crisp and red. Finally, he straightened the parrot's sign, which read: 'Fresh fruit for everyone!' Max knew that using an apostrophe showed who owned the items, making his market the tidiest in the forest.

Word bank: possession · singular · plural · apostrophe · ownership · belonging

1. Identify the singular possessive noun in the passage that shows something belonging to one monkey. Explain how you know it is singular. (2 marks)

2. Look at the phrase 'the farmers' apples'. Why is the apostrophe placed after the 's' instead of before it? (2 marks)

3. Rewrite this sentence adding the correct apostrophe: 'The parrots feathers were bright blue.' (1 mark)

4. Max has a collection of books belonging to all the children. Write a sentence using an apostrophe to show that the books belong to the children. (2 marks)

5. If Max has one shop, how would you write 'the shop of Max' using a possessive apostrophe? (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the monkey standing at his market stall. Label one item using a possessive apostrophe, for example: 'Max's scales' or 'the monkey's hat'.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph about a different market stall run by Leo the lion. Include at least two examples of singular possession and two examples of plural possession using correctly placed apostrophes.