

Mastering Apostrophes with Max and Zara

Learning objective: To use apostrophes for possession and contraction accurately in Year 5 writing.

Read each question carefully. Remember: use apostrophes for possession (to show something belongs to someone) and for contractions (to show where letters are missing).

Max the monkey and Zara the zebra are getting ready for their afternoon adventure. Max is busy counting his fruit, while Zara is busy painting her favourite patterns.

Word bank: Max's · Zara's · didn't · couldn't · should've · it's · its · monkey's · zebra's

1. Rewrite this sentence to show possession: 'The tail belonging to the monkey was long.' Use the possessive apostrophe. (2 marks)

2. Change these two words into a contraction: 'do not'. Use it in a sentence about Max. (2 marks)

3. Explain the difference between 'it's' (contraction) and 'its' (possessive). Give an example sentence for each. (3 marks)

4. Zara has a collection of brushes. Write a sentence using the possessive apostrophe to show that the brushes belong to Zara. (2 marks)

5. Find the mistake in this sentence and correct it: 'The zebra's stripes were bright, but it's pattern was messy.' (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the monkey and Zara the zebra working together in a garden. Label one item belonging to Max using a possessive apostrophe (e.g., 'Max's apple').



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph about an adventure Max and Zara go on. You must include at least two examples of apostrophes for possession and two examples of apostrophes for contraction.