

Scriptwriter's Studio: Mastering the Playscript

Learning objective: To identify and apply the correct features of a playscript, including stage directions, character names, and dialogue.

Max the monkey is writing a play about a maths-themed adventure in a jungle cafe. However, he has muddled up his script! Below is a list of features. Sort these features into the correct category: either 'Setting the Scene' (Stage Directions) or 'Action' (Dialogue). Then, use the word bank to fill in the gaps for Max's script.

Word bank: stage directions · character name · dialogue · brackets · colon

1. Sort these items into 'Stage Directions' or 'Dialogue': 1. (Max sighs heavily), 2. Max: I have four bananas left, 3. (Walking towards the counter), 4. Ellie: That will be £3.50, please. (4 marks)

2. In a playscript, which punctuation mark is placed immediately after the character's name to show who is speaking? (1 mark)

3. Explain why 'stage directions' are usually written in brackets or italics. How do they help an actor perform? (2 marks)

4. Complete this sentence: To show an action, the playwright writes _____ inside _____. (2 marks)

5. Write a short piece of dialogue (two lines) between Pip the caterpillar and Nova the owl where Pip offers to sell Nova a bookmark for £1.20. Remember to use the correct layout. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a stage set for Max's jungle cafe. Include a sign showing a price of £2.50 for a bunch of bananas and ensure there is space for the actors to stand.



Extension challenge: Choose an object in your classroom. Write a 5-line playscript where two characters (like Kit and Zara) argue about how much that object should cost in a shop!