

Mastering Punctuation with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To use fronted adverbials, possessive apostrophes, and direct speech punctuation accurately in Year 4 writing.

Read the story of Max's jungle market trip. Use your knowledge of grammar to correct the punctuation and answer the challenge questions below.

Max the monkey was excited. He reached into his satchel and pulled out the monkeys shiny coins. Suddenly he spotted a stall selling exotic fruit. With a hungry grin Max shouted Hello! How much for these bananas? The stallholder replied They are £2.50 per bunch. Max carefully counted his change and bought the fruit for his friends.

Word bank: possessive · adverbial · inverted commas · plural · conjunction · speech marks

1. Identify the missing possessive apostrophe in the second sentence. Rewrite the phrase correctly and explain why the apostrophe is needed. (2 marks)

2. Find the fronted adverbial in the passage. Explain how the punctuation would change if you moved this phrase to the end of the sentence. (2 marks)

3. Insert the missing inverted commas into the direct speech between Max and the stallholder. (2 marks)

4. Max has three friends: Pip, Nova, and Ellie. Write a sentence using a possessive apostrophe to show that the bananas belong to all three of them. (2 marks)

5. Justify why it is important to use a comma after a fronted adverbial. What might happen to the meaning of a sentence if the comma is omitted? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene of Max at the market. Label the stall with a sign using a possessive apostrophe (e.g., 'Farmer's Market') and include a speech bubble for Max that uses accurate speech punctuation.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are the stallholder. Write a short paragraph describing the market scene using at least two different fronted adverbials, one possessive apostrophe, and a line of dialogue. Compare and contrast your use of punctuation with Max's original passage.