

Mastering Speech Marks with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To use inverted commas (speech marks) accurately to punctuate direct speech in Year 4 writing.

Max the Monkey is busy solving maths puzzles in the jungle, but he needs your help to punctuate what his friends are saying! Read the questions carefully and remember to place your punctuation correctly.

Answer Key: 1. B, 2. True, 3. False, 4. A, 5. 'I love bananas!' said Max., 6. True, 7. B, 8. 'Where are we going?' asked Pip., 9. False, 10. A. Remember: Speech marks go around the words spoken, and a new speaker needs a new line!

Word bank: inverted commas · speech · dialogue · reporting clause · punctuation · capital letter

1. 1. Which punctuation marks are used to show that someone is speaking? A) Full stops B) Inverted commas* C) Brackets D) Commas (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: You must always use a capital letter for the first word spoken inside the speech marks. (1 mark)

3. 3. True or False: It is okay to put the speech marks around the reporting clause (e.g., 'said Max'). (1 mark)

4. 4. Where should the punctuation go if the sentence ends inside the speech marks? A) Inside the closing speech mark* B) Outside the closing speech mark C) Before the first speech mark D) It is not needed (1 mark)

5. 5. Rewrite this sentence with correct speech marks: I love bananas! said Max. (1 mark)

6. 6. True or False: If a new person starts speaking, you should start a new line. (1 mark)

7. 7. Which sentence is punctuated correctly? A) 'Hello, said Nova.' B) 'Hello,' said Nova.* C) Hello, 'said Nova.' D) 'Hello' said Nova (1 mark)

8. 8. Add speech marks to this sentence: Where are we going? asked Pip. (1 mark)

9. 9. True or False: You only need speech marks if the person is shouting. (1 mark)

10. 10. In the sentence: 'Look at the stars!' whispered Nova. What is the reporting clause?
A) whispered Nova* B) Look at the stars C) the stars D) speech marks (1 mark)

Draw: Draw Max the Monkey talking to Nova the Owl. Add a speech bubble for each character and make sure to include the speech marks inside the bubbles!



Extension challenge: Write a short conversation between Finn the Dolphin and Zara the Zebra about their favourite underwater colours. Remember to start a new line every time the speaker changes!