

Mastering Speech Marks with Max and Nova

Learning objective: To use inverted commas (speech marks) correctly to punctuate direct speech, including the use of reporting clauses.

Read each task carefully. Remember to place speech marks around the words spoken, use a comma to separate the speech from the reporting clause, and ensure you include a capital letter to start the spoken sentence.

Max the monkey and Nova the owl are busy planning an adventure in the forest. Max loves to talk about maths, while Nova prefers to ask questions about the stars.

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

1. Max says, 'We need to count the stars tonight.' Rewrite this sentence so the reporting clause comes at the end, making sure to use a comma and a full stop correctly. (2 marks)

2. Nova asks, 'How many constellations can we see?' Add the missing speech marks and punctuation to this sentence. (2 marks)

3. Max shouts excitedly that they should bring a telescope. Write this as a piece of direct speech using a reporting clause of your choice. (2 marks)

4. Correct the punctuation in this sentence: Nova replied, 'i think that is a brilliant idea'. (2 marks)

5. Explain why we use a comma before the closing speech mark when the reporting clause follows the speech (e.g., 'Hello,' said Max). (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a speech bubble coming from Max holding a telescope and a speech bubble coming from Nova looking at the night sky, making sure to punctuate the speech inside the bubbles correctly.



Extension challenge: Write a short dialogue of three exchanges between Max and Nova as they prepare for their stargazing trip. Remember to start a new line every time a new character speaks!