

Class 5 English Assessment: Precision in Punctuation

Learning objective: To demonstrate mastery of commas, apostrophes for possession and contraction, brackets, dashes, and commas for parenthesis.

Read each question carefully. Ensure your answers are punctuated accurately using standard British English conventions. You have 45 minutes to complete this assessment.

Max the monkey, a brilliant mathematician, loves solving puzzles. He often visits the library where Pip the caterpillar reads. One afternoon, Max's best friend (a quiet owl named Nova) found a misplaced apostrophe in a book. 'It's a mistake!' Nova hooted. 'The author's intent was clear, but the grammar is incorrect.' Max adjusted his glasses—which were slightly crooked—and began his work.

Word bank: parenthesis · omission · possession · subordinate · clause · conjunction · relative

1. Identify the two commas used for parenthesis in the first sentence of the passage. Explain why these commas are necessary. (2 marks)

2. In the passage, identify the word 'Max's'. Is this an apostrophe of possession or contraction? Justify your answer. (2 marks)

3. Rewrite the following sentence using brackets to add extra information about Finn the dolphin: Finn swam across the vast ocean to reach the coral reef. (2 marks)

4. Insert a dash into this sentence to add emphasis: The storm was incredibly fierce it blew the branches off the oak tree. (2 marks)

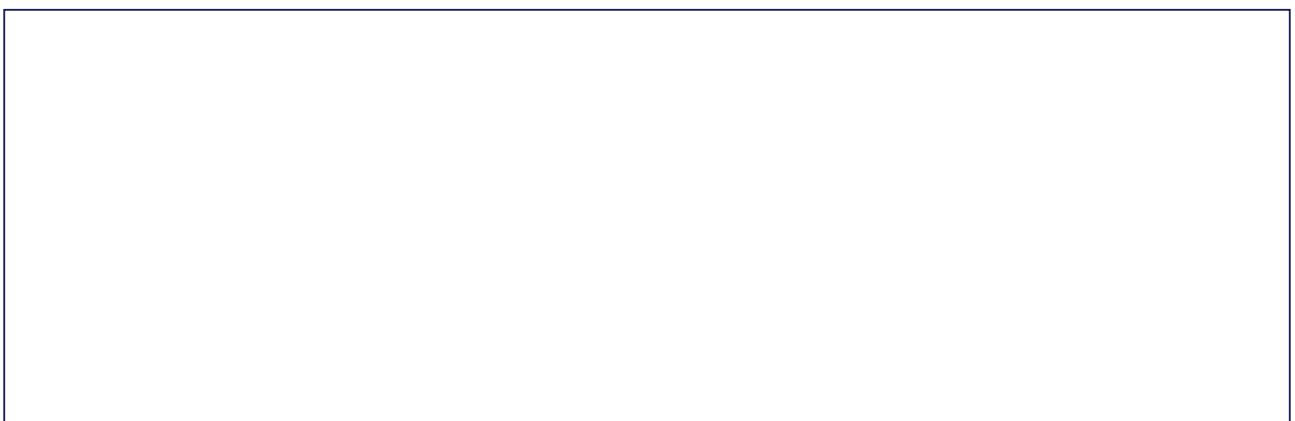
5. Explain the difference in meaning between these two sentences: 1. The students' work was finished. 2. The student's work was finished. (4 marks)

6. Rewrite the following passage, adding at least one pair of brackets, one dash, and two commas for clarity: Leo the lion who was feeling very brave decided to write a poem about the sunset. He picked up his quill it was made of sturdy wood and began to write. (4 marks)

7. Write a short creative paragraph (4-6 sentences) describing Zara the zebra painting in her studio. You must include at least one example of a possessive apostrophe, a pair of commas for parenthesis, and a dash for effect. (5 marks)

8. Compare and contrast the use of brackets and dashes. In what context might an author choose a dash over brackets? Justify your reasoning. (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene where Nova the owl is helping Max the monkey organise a 'Punctuation Picnic'. Include a sign showing a title with an apostrophe and a label for a snack using a bracketed description.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Challenge: Rewrite a favourite historical event or scientific discovery in your own words, using a wide range of punctuation marks (semicolons, colons, brackets, and dashes) to create a sophisticated, complex narrative style.