

The Punctuation Picnic

Learning objective: To identify and understand the purpose of commas, apostrophes, and colons in a narrative text.

Read the story below carefully. Pay close attention to how the punctuation marks help the sentences make sense. Answer the questions in full sentences.

Max the monkey was organising a grand picnic in the forest. He had a long list of items to pack: juicy apples, crunchy carrots, and sweet honey. Max's basket was already overflowing with treats. 'Don't forget the picnic blanket,' reminded Pip the caterpillar, who was busy reading a book nearby. Pip pointed to the basket. 'Is that the squirrel's blanket, or is it yours?' Max laughed, 'It's mine! I wouldn't leave it behind.' The two friends sat under a large, leafy oak tree to plan the feast. Suddenly, Nova the owl swooped down. 'I've brought some stargazing charts for after lunch,' she hooted. The forest was peaceful, filled with the sounds of rustling leaves and birdsong. Max checked his list one last time to ensure everything was ready. With all the supplies gathered, the trio sat down to eat. They knew that a well-organised afternoon required three things: good food, great friends, and just the right amount of sunshine to keep them happy.

Word bank: punctuation · apostrophe · omission · possession · colon · clarity

1. What three items does Max have on his list for the picnic? (2 marks)

2. Which character brought the stargazing charts to the picnic? (1 mark)

3. Why is there an apostrophe in the word 'squirrel's'? (2 marks)

4. What does the use of the colon in the final sentence suggest about Max's planning style? (2 marks)

5. Do you think the picnic would be successful without the punctuation marks in the text? Explain your answer. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max, Pip, and Nova sitting under the large oak tree with their picnic basket. Make sure to include the items mentioned in the story!



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph about your own dream picnic. Include at least one colon to introduce a list of items and one apostrophe for possession.