

Max's Maths Market Punctuation Challenge

Learning objective: To use commas, brackets, and dashes to indicate parenthesis within a sentence.

Read the passage about Max the monkey's busy day at the market. Add the missing punctuation to clarify the information, then answer the questions below.

Max the monkey who is very good at mental maths decided to visit the local market. He wanted to buy some fruit—specifically bananas, apples, and pears—for his friends. He checked his list (which he had written in his notebook) to ensure he had enough money. He had £5.50 in his pocket enough to buy a treat for everyone. The market stallholder a very friendly giraffe named Gerald smiled at Max.

Word bank: parenthesis · comma · bracket · dash · extra information · punctuation

1. Identify the two commas used for parenthesis in the first sentence. Why are they used there? (2 marks)

2. The passage uses a dash to add extra information about the fruit. Rewrite that sentence using brackets instead of dashes. (2 marks)

3. Find the parenthesis in the second sentence. What is the author telling us about Max's notebook? (2 marks)

4. Add a pair of dashes to the final sentence to include the information: 'who wore a bright yellow hat'. (2 marks)

5. Why do we use punctuation like brackets or dashes when writing? Explain how it helps the reader. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the monkey at Gerald the giraffe's market stall, making sure to include a sign with a price listed in £ and p.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph about your favourite hobby. Include at least one sentence that uses brackets and one sentence that uses a pair of dashes to add extra detail.