

Max's Market Mystery

Learning objective: To correctly identify and use speech marks (inverted commas) in a narrative context.

Read the passage carefully. Pay close attention to how Max uses speech marks to show exactly what he says to his friends. Answer the questions in full sentences, ensuring you include the correct punctuation.

Max the monkey stood at the bustling local market, clutching his basket of fruit. He was excited to show his friends the tally he had made. Pip the caterpillar crawled over to see what Max was holding.

'I have found ten apples for £2.50,' Max exclaimed, his eyes wide with delight.

'That is a fantastic bargain!' Pip cheered, wiggling with excitement.

Nova the owl swooped down from her perch, peering curiously at the fruit. 'Are you going to share them with the group?' she asked, tilting her head.

Max nodded eagerly. 'Of course! We can make a giant fruit salad for everyone,' he replied.

Zara the zebra trotted over, admiring the colourful display. 'Patterns are everywhere, even in a pile of apples,' she remarked, noticing how the red and green skins created a beautiful mosaic. Max grinned and began to sort the fruit into groups of five. He loved how maths made everything easier to manage, especially when he was sharing a healthy treat with his best friends.

Word bank: inverted commas · dialogue · punctuation · reporting clause · direct speech

1. How much did Max pay for the ten apples? (1 mark)

2. What activity did Max suggest the group do with the apples? (1 mark)

3. Why do you think Max is described as being 'excited' at the start of the story? (2 marks)

4. Why does Zara mention patterns when she looks at the apples? (2 marks)

5. Do you think Max is a good friend? Explain your reasons using evidence from the text. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw Max the monkey sharing his basket of apples with Pip, Nova, and Zara at the market. Make sure to include a speech bubble for Max saying, 'Let's eat together!'



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph about what happened next. Include at least two sentences of direct speech, making sure to use inverted commas, capital letters for the start of the spoken words, and the correct closing punctuation.