

Mastering Speech Marks with Max the Maths-Monkey

Learning objective: To use inverted commas (speech marks) correctly to punctuate direct speech in a narrative, ensuring accurate placement of commas, capital letters, and end punctuation.

Read the opening passage below. Use the writing frame to continue the story, remembering to open your speech with a capital letter and include punctuation inside the closing speech marks.

Max the monkey adjusted his spectacles and stared at the complex equation scribbled on the tree trunk, before turning to his friends and saying, "I believe I have discovered the secret to this puzzle!"

Word bank: exclaimed · whispered · replied · cautiously · enthusiastically · meanwhile · consequently · furthermore · shouted · queried

1. Describe how the other animals reacted to Max's discovery. Start your sentence with an adverb and include direct speech: _____ [Name] replied, "... " (2 marks)

2. Max explains the next step of his maths puzzle. Write his explanation using a reporting clause in the middle of the speech: "... , " Max explained, "... ." (2 marks)

3. The group decides to test the theory. Use a speech mark sentence where the reporting clause comes before the spoken words: [Name] shouted, "... !" (2 marks)

4. Write a sentence showing someone asking a question about the result. Remember to use a question mark inside your speech marks: "... ?" asked [Name]. (2 marks)

5. Conclude the scene with a final thought from Max. Ensure you use a new line for a new speaker if a different character responds to him. (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Challenge: Can you rewrite one of your sentences to use a 'split quotation', where the reporting clause divides the speech in half? Remember to use a comma after the first part of the speech and before the reporting clause.