

Max's Market Day Maths

Learning objective: To understand and identify the use of apostrophes for possession and contraction.

Read the story carefully and look for the apostrophes. Answer the questions in full sentences.

Max the monkey is at the village market today. He loves to see what everyone is selling. First, he visits Pip's stall. Pip has a collection of beautiful, colourful bookmarks for sale. Max spots a sign that says, 'It's a bargain!' Max thinks this is a clever contraction, as it really means, 'It is a bargain.'

Next, Max trots over to Zara's fruit basket. He can see Zara's shiny red apples piled high. Max notices the apostrophe after Zara's name. This shows that the apples belong to Zara. Max wants to buy a snack, but he has only got £2.00 in his pocket. He realises he's quite hungry, so he decides to spend his money on a bunch of bananas. He checks his pockets again to make sure he hasn't lost his coins. Max is happy with his snack and decides to find Leo the lion to share his treat. He loves market days because there are always so many interesting things to count and read!

Word bank: apostrophe · possession · contraction · belonging · shortened

1. What does the contraction 'It's' mean in the story? (2 marks)

2. Whose fruit basket does Max visit at the market? (1 mark)

3. Why does the author use an apostrophe in 'Zara's apples'? (2 marks)

4. How does Max feel about the market day, and how do you know? (2 marks)

5. Do you think Max is good at managing his money? Explain why using evidence from the text. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the monkey at the market holding a bunch of bananas, and include a sign nearby that uses an apostrophe for possession (e.g., 'Max's Fruit').



Extension challenge: Write three sentences of your own using apostrophes. Use one for a contraction (like 'don't') and two for possession (like 'the cat's toy').