

Max's Maths Shop: The Apostrophe Challenge

Learning objective: To use apostrophes for contraction and possession accurately, distinguishing between the two.

Max the monkey is opening a shop to sell his favourite maths puzzles. However, his signs are all mixed up! For each item below, decide if the apostrophe is showing a contraction (two words joined together) or possession (something belonging to someone). If it is a contraction, rewrite the two full words. If it is a possession, explain who owns the item. Place a tick in the correct box.

Word bank: it is · cannot · Max's · do not · they are · we are

1. 1. 'Max's calculator is broken.' Is this a contraction or possession? Who owns the calculator? (2 marks)

2. 2. 'Don't forget your ruler.' (Contraction: do not). Write the full words for 'Can't' and 'It's'. (2 marks)

3. 3. 'The pupils' books were on the table.' Is the apostrophe correctly placed for plural possession? (2 marks)

4. 4. 'They're selling items for £5.50.' Rewrite this sentence without using the contraction 'They're'. (2 marks)

5. 5. 'The zebra's stripes are colourful.' Does this apostrophe show possession or a contraction? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the monkey standing in his shop with a sign that correctly uses an apostrophe for possession (e.g., Max's Shop) and one that uses a contraction (e.g., We're open).



Extension challenge: Write a short advertisement for Max's shop. You must include at least two examples of apostrophes for possession (e.g., the shop's door) and two examples of apostrophes for contraction (e.g., you'll love it).