

Max's Magnificent Apostrophe Challenge

Learning objective: To understand and correctly apply apostrophes for possession and singular/plural contraction in line with Year 5 National Curriculum requirements.

Max the monkey is busy organising his maths puzzles, but he keeps muddling up his apostrophes! Read the questions carefully and help Max put his punctuation in the right places.

Answer Key: 1.C, 2.True, 3.Don't, 4.False, 5.B, 6.The lion's mane, 7.A, 8.True, 9.It's, 10.B. (Note for teachers: Ensure students understand that an apostrophe for possession replaces the 'missing' person or shows ownership, and contractions replace missing letters.)

Word bank: Contraction · Possession · Singular · Plural · Omission

1. 1. Which sentence uses the apostrophe correctly for possession? A) The monkey's bananas are yellow. B) The monkeys's bananas are yellow. C) The monkey's bananas are ripe.* D) The monkeyss' bananas are ripe. (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: You use an apostrophe to show that letters have been left out in a contraction like 'can't'. (1 mark)

3. 3. Write the contraction for 'do not'. (1 mark)

4. 4. True or False: The word 'apples' in 'The apples are red' needs an apostrophe because it is plural. (1 mark)

5. 5. Which word is a contraction? A) Jumped B) Won't* C) Quickly D) Elephant (1 mark)

6. 6. Rewrite this phrase using an apostrophe for possession: 'The mane belonging to the lion'. (1 mark)

7. 7. Where should the apostrophe go in 'I cant wait for the party'? A) I can't wait* B) I cant' wait C) I cant wait' D) I'cant wait (1 mark)

8. 8. True or False: 'It's' is a contraction for 'it is'. (1 mark)

9. 9. Fill in the blank: '_____ time to go to the zoo!' (Use the contraction for 'It is'). (1 mark)

10. 10. Which is correct? A) The childs' toy. B) The child's toy.* C) The childs toy'. D) The childrens' toy. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw Max the monkey holding a giant, floating apostrophe like a balloon, trying to decide where to attach it to a sentence written on a chalkboard.



Extension challenge: Write three sentences about your favourite animal. In the first, use an apostrophe for a contraction (e.g., 'doesn't'). In the second, use one for singular possession (e.g., 'the owl's wing'). In the third, describe a price using £ (e.g., 'The book cost £5').