

Max's Magnificent Playscript Quiz

Learning objective: To identify and apply the key features of a playscript, including stage directions, character names, and dialogue formatting.

Max the monkey is putting on a show in the jungle! Help him organise his script by answering these 10 questions. Read carefully and remember how a script differs from a storybook.

Answer Key: 1. C; 2. True; 3. Stage directions; 4. B; 5. False; 6. A; 7. Dialogue; 8. A; 9. To tell the actor how to move or speak; 10. True.

Word bank: Stage directions · Dialogue · Character · Setting · Parentheses · Format · Performance · Script

1. Which of these is a key feature of a playscript? A) Paragraphs with inverted commas, B) Chapters, C) Character names on the left-hand side*, D) A contents page. (1 mark)

2. True or False: Stage directions are usually written in brackets or italics to distinguish them from spoken words. (1 mark)

3. What is the technical name for the instructions that tell an actor how to move or how to say a line? (1 mark)

4. In a script, what is the spoken part called? A) Stage directions, B) Dialogue*, C) The narration, D) The setting. (1 mark)

5. True or False: Playscripts always use speech marks (inverted commas) for every line of dialogue. (1 mark)

6. Where should the character's name be placed when they are about to speak? A) On the left-hand side followed by a colon*, B) At the end of the sentence, C) In a paragraph, D) In the middle of the page. (1 mark)

7. What word describes the time and place where the scene happens, usually found at the very start of the script? (1 mark)

8. Why do we avoid using long descriptive paragraphs in a playscript? A) Because the audience needs to see the action on stage*, B) Because playscripts are only for reading, C) Because it makes the paper too heavy, D) Because actors do not like to read. (1 mark)

9. 9. Explain why stage directions are essential for a successful performance. (1 mark)

10. 10. True or False: A playscript is designed specifically to be performed rather than just read as a story. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a scene featuring Max the monkey on a theatre stage. Include a 'prop' list on the side of your drawing, noting what he needs for his performance, such as a prop banana or a top hat.



Extension challenge: Greater Depth Questions: 1. Compare and contrast: How is a playscript different from a traditional narrative story? 2. Justify why playwrights choose to include setting descriptions at the start of scenes. 3. What might happen if a playwright forgot to include stage directions in their script? 4. Imagine you are writing a script about Pip the caterpillar. Write a short scene (4 lines) including one character and one stage direction in brackets. 5. Explain why the layout of a script is so important for the actors. 6. If you were staging a play, why might you need to consider the cost of props? If a hat costs £4.50 and a banana prop costs £2.25, what is the total cost for these two items?