

Max's Maths-Themed Playscript Challenge

Learning objective: To understand the features, layout, and conventions of a playscript as required for Year 5 English.

Max the monkey has been writing a play about a clever monkey who solves puzzles! Help him get his script ready for the stage by answering these 10 questions.

Answer Key: 1. A (Character list), 2. True, 3. False (they are usually in brackets/italics), 4. Dialogue, 5. B (To show how an actor should move or feel), 6. True, 7. Scene, 8. C (The name is written on the left), 9. False (Playscripts are written to be performed, not read like a novel), 10. False.

Word bank: Stage directions · Dialogue · Character list · Setting · Act · Scene · Format · Performance

1. 1. Where should you list the people who appear in your play? A) Character list* B) The index C) The glossary D) The bibliography (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: Playscripts do not use quotation marks for speech. (1 mark)

3. 3. True or False: Stage directions are usually written in capital letters to show the audience what to say. (1 mark)

4. 4. What is the technical term for the words that the characters speak to each other? (1 mark)

5. 5. Why do writers include stage directions? A) To tell the story B) To show how an actor should move or feel* C) To decorate the page D) To explain the history of the theatre (1 mark)

6. 6. True or False: A playscript tells the reader where and when the story is happening at the start of a scene. (1 mark)

7. 7. If the story moves to a new location, what do we call the new section of the play? (1 mark)

8. 8. How is a character's name usually presented in a playscript? A) In bold at the end of the line B) In a box C) On the left side followed by a colon* D) In italics at the bottom of the page (1 mark)

9. 9. True or False: Playscripts are written primarily to be read silently by one person in a library. (1 mark)

10. 10. True or False: You should always use descriptive paragraphs (like in a storybook) to describe the scenery. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a scene from a play where Max the monkey is teaching a class of animals about maths. Include one line of dialogue and a stage direction in brackets.



Extension challenge: Write a short playscript (no more than 10 lines) featuring Pip the caterpillar and Nova the owl deciding what to have for lunch. Remember to include a character list and stage directions!