

Max's Punctuation Puzzle: Speech Marks

Learning objective: To identify and use inverted commas (speech marks) to show direct speech.

Max the monkey is looking for the words people have spoken. Help him find the speech marks! Read each question carefully. Use the word bank if you get stuck.

Answer Key: 1. A, 2. True, 3. Speech marks, 4. B, 5. True, 6. A, 7. Inverted commas, 8. B, 9. False, 10. Speech marks.

Word bank: Speech marks · Talking · Inverted commas · Capital letter · Full stop

1. Which symbol shows that someone is speaking? A) “ ” * B) . C) , D) ? (1 mark)
2. True or False: We use speech marks to show exactly what someone said. (1 mark)
3. What is another name for inverted commas? (Hint: See the word bank) (1 mark)
4. Where does the punctuation go at the end of the spoken words? A) Outside the marks B) Inside the marks * (1 mark)
5. True or False: The first word inside the speech marks should have a capital letter. (1 mark)
6. Which sentence is correct? A) “Hello,” said Max. B) Hello, said Max. (1 mark)
7. Fill in the blank: We use _____ to show direct speech. (1 mark)
8. Where do speech marks go? A) Above the words B) Around the spoken words * (1 mark)
9. True or False: You do not need a comma before closing the speech marks. (1 mark)
10. What do we call the marks that look like “ ”? (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the monkey talking to Pip the caterpillar. Add a speech bubble above Max that says: “I love maths!” and remember to put speech marks around his words.



Extension challenge: Write one sentence about what your favourite animal might say if it could talk. Remember to use your speech marks!