

Mastering Dialogue: A Punctuation Adventure with Max and Pip

Learning objective: To use inverted commas (speech marks) accurately to punctuate direct speech in Year 4 writing.

Read each task carefully. Remember that speech marks open and close the spoken words, and punctuation must always go inside the closing speech marks.

Max the monkey and Pip the caterpillar are exploring the library together. Max is excited to solve a maths puzzle, while Pip is searching for a new word to add to her collection.

Word bank: inverted commas · dialogue · reporting clause · punctuation · spoken words

1. Rewrite the following sentence by adding inverted commas and the correct punctuation: Max shouted I have found the answer to the puzzle. (2 marks)

2. Pip whispered, 'This is a magnificent word.' Identify the reporting clause in this sentence and explain why it is important to include one in a narrative. (3 marks)

3. Convert this indirect speech into direct speech: Pip asked Max if he could help her find a book about nature. (Remember to include a speaker and a reporting clause.) (3 marks)

4. Correct the punctuation in this sentence: 'Look at this page,' said Max 'It is full of wonderful patterns.' Explain why you added your chosen punctuation mark. (3 marks)

5. Compare and contrast: Why is it necessary to use a new line when a new speaker begins talking in a story? (2 marks)

6. Justify your answer: If a character is shouting, where should the exclamation mark go in relation to the inverted commas? Provide an example. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a speech bubble showing Max asking Pip a question about a book, and a second bubble showing Pip's enthusiastic reply. Ensure you include the correct speech marks inside the bubbles.



Extension challenge: Write a short dialogue (4-6 lines) between Max and Pip where they are deciding how to spend £10.00 on new library resources. Ensure you use a variety of synonyms for 'said' (e.g., exclaimed, whispered, inquired) and remember to punctuate your dialogue perfectly.