

Max's Maths Market Adventure

Learning objective: To use inverted commas (speech marks) correctly to punctuate direct speech in a narrative.

Read the story below carefully. Max the monkey is at the village market trying to buy fruit for his friends. Add the missing speech marks and commas to show exactly what the characters are saying.

Max skipped towards the fruit stall, his eyes wide with excitement. He looked at the bright, shiny apples and asked, How much are these for a bag? The grocer smiled and replied, They are exactly £2.50 per bag. Max did a quick calculation in his head. That is a brilliant deal, he cheered. I will take three bags please. The grocer handed them over and said, That will be £7.50 altogether.

Word bank: inverted commas · direct speech · punctuation · reported clause · dialogue

1. Identify the first piece of direct speech in the passage and rewrite it below with the correct inverted commas and a comma before the closing speech mark. (2 marks)

2. Explain why we use a capital letter at the start of the word inside the speech marks. (2 marks)

3. Find the sentence where Max says he will take three bags. Rewrite it, ensuring the speech marks enclose only the spoken words. (2 marks)

4. Why do you think the author chose to use the word 'cheered' instead of 'said' in the third sentence? (1 mark)

5. Add the missing speech marks and punctuation to this sentence: Pip the caterpillar asked Nova where she was going. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the monkey at the market holding his bags of apples, and include a speech bubble above his head showing what he might say to his friend Pip the caterpillar.



Extension challenge: Write a short dialogue between Max and the grocer where they discuss buying a bunch of bananas for £1.20. Remember to use a new line for each new speaker!