

## Max's Math-Themed Playscript Challenge

*Learning objective: To understand the features, layout, and conventions of a playscript as required for Grade 4 ELA.*

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)**

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

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

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

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**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 theater (1 mark)**

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**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)**

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

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**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)**

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**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 math. 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!*