

Max's Math Market: A Speech Mark Adventure

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

Read the story below. Max the monkey is at the village market trying to buy fruit for his friends. Notice how speech marks are used to show exactly what the characters are saying. Then, answer the questions to show your understanding.

Max the monkey hopped over to the fruit stall. He looked at the shiny red apples and felt very hungry. 'How much for one apple, please?' Max asked the farmer politely. The farmer smiled and replied, 'That will be 30p each, little monkey.' Max reached into his pocket and pulled out a 50p coin. 'I would like two apples, then,' Max declared excitedly. The farmer handed over the fruit and said, 'Here is your change, which is 40p.' Max cheered, 'Thank you so much!'

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

1. Find and copy the first sentence in the passage that contains speech marks. (2 marks)

2. Why does the author use inverted commas around the words 'How much for one apple, please?' (2 marks)

3. Look at the farmer's first line of speech. Where is the comma placed in relation to the speech marks? (2 marks)

4. Rewrite this sentence adding the missing speech marks: Max shouted, Look at those delicious bananas! (2 marks)

5. Max bought two apples for 60p in total. If he paid with a £1 coin, how much change should he receive? Write your answer as a full sentence using speech marks. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the monkey at the market stall holding his two apples. Add a speech bubble above his head showing him saying something kind to the farmer.



Extension challenge: Write a short dialogue between Max and his friend Pip the caterpillar. Pip wants to buy a strawberry for 25p. Remember to use a new line for each new speaker and include correct punctuation.