

Grade 4 ELA Assessment: Mastering Speech Marks

Learning objective: To correctly identify, punctuate, and use direct speech in narrative writing, ensuring correct placement of commas, capital letters, and closing punctuation.

Read the sentences carefully. Remember that speech marks (inverted commas) must go around the words actually spoken. Ensure you use the correct punctuation inside the speech marks.

Max the monkey was busy counting his banana collection. He looked up at Nova the owl, who was sitting on a high branch. 'I have exactly forty-two bananas,' Max shouted excitedly. Nova adjusted her glasses and replied, 'That is a very impressive number, Max.' Max grinned and asked, 'Would you like to share one with me?' Nova hooted softly, 'I would love to, thank you!'

Word bank: inverted commas · comma · capital letter · speech · dialogue · punctuation

1. Identify the direct speech in the first sentence of the passage. Write it down exactly as it appears, including the punctuation. (2 marks)

2. Explain why we use a comma after the reporting clause (e.g., Nova replied,) before starting the speech. (2 marks)

3. Rewrite the following sentence with the correct speech marks and punctuation: Pip the caterpillar said I love reading books about space. (3 marks)

4. Insert the missing speech marks and punctuation into this sentence: Ellie the elephant trumpeted, Look at the beautiful sunset over the hills. (3 marks)

5. Rewrite this sentence so the speech comes BEFORE the reporting clause: 'I am ready to go on an adventure,' said Leo the lion. (3 marks)

6. Identify the error in this sentence and explain how to fix it: 'Hello,' said Zara, 'how are you today.' (3 marks)

7. Write a short dialogue between Kit the fox and Finn the dolphin. They are planning a treasure hunt near the coral reef. You must include at least four lines of speech, use correct speech marks, and use a new line for each new speaker. (5 marks for accuracy and correct formatting). (9 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene featuring Max the monkey and Nova the owl sitting under a tree, with a speech bubble showing something Max might say about his math puzzle.



Extension challenge: Total: /25