

Max the Monkey's Punctuation Puzzle

Learning objective: To correctly identify and use inverted commas (speech marks) to punctuate direct speech in accordance with Grade 4 ELA standards.

Max the Monkey is trying to organize his jungle notes, but he has forgotten where to put the speech marks! Read the questions carefully and help Max fix his sentences.

Answer Key: 1. B, 2. True, 3. False, 4. B, 5. 'I love bananas!' said Max., 6. A, 7. B, 8. True, 9. 'Wait for me!' shouted Pip., 10. True. Remember: Speech marks go around the words actually spoken, and punctuation like commas or exclamation marks go inside the speech marks.

Word bank: Inverted commas · Reporting clause · Direct speech · Punctuation · Dialogue

1. 1. Where should the inverted commas be placed in this sentence? A) Outside the full stop, B) Around the words actually spoken, C) Only at the start of the sentence, D) Around the reporting clause. (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: You should always place a comma, question mark, or exclamation mark inside the closing inverted commas. (1 mark)

3. 3. True or False: You need to use speech marks when writing a summary of what someone said (indirect speech). (1 mark)

4. 4. Which sentence is punctuated correctly? A) 'Hello,' said Nova, 'the stars are bright today.' B) 'Hello', said Nova, 'the stars are bright today.' C) 'Hello' said Nova 'the stars are bright today.' D) Hello, said Nova, the stars are bright today. (1 mark)

5. 5. Punctuate this sentence: I love bananas said Max. (1 mark)

6. 6. What is the name for the part of the sentence that tells us who is speaking (e.g., 'said Max')? A) Reporting clause, B) Speech mark, C) Inverted comma, D) Direct speech. (1 mark)

7. 7. Where does the capital letter go if the direct speech starts the sentence? A) After the first speech mark, B) Inside the speech marks at the start of the spoken words, C) Before the speech mark, D) It doesn't need a capital. (1 mark)

8. 8. True or False: If the reporting clause comes before the speech, you put a comma after the reporting clause before opening the speech marks. (1 mark)

9. 9. Punctuate this sentence: Wait for me shouted Pip. (1 mark)

10. 10. True or False: Every time a new person speaks, you should start a new line. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw Max the Monkey sitting in a tree holding a banana, with a speech bubble _____ coming from his mouth that says: 'Math is fun!' Make sure you include the speech marks in your drawing.



Extension challenge: Write a short dialogue between Pip the caterpillar and Nova the owl about what they want to do this weekend. Remember to use a new line for each new speaker and use your speech marks correctly!