

Max's Magnificent Maths Shop: The Apostrophe Challenge

Learning objective: To accurately use apostrophes for both possession and omission (contractions) in Year 5 writing.

Max the monkey has opened a shop selling mathematical tools. However, his signage and price lists are full of missing apostrophes! Read the items below and decide whether to add an apostrophe for possession (e.g., The ruler's edge) or for omission/contraction (e.g., It's a bargain). Rewrite each sentence correctly, ensuring you place the apostrophe in the precise position.

Word bank: possession · omission · contraction · singular · plural · belonging

1. 1. The monkeys abacus is missing three beads. (Hint: One monkey owns it.) (2 marks)

2. 2. It is a fantastic deal for this protractor. (Rewrite using a contraction.) (2 marks)

3. 3. The pupils calculators were all working perfectly. (Hint: More than one pupil.) (2 marks)

4. 4. Do not forget to bring your compass. (Rewrite using a contraction.) (2 marks)

5. 5. Explain why the apostrophe in 'The children's book' is placed before the 's', even though 'children' is already a plural noun. (3 marks)

6. 6. Compare and contrast the use of an apostrophe in 'The teacher's desk' versus 'The teachers' room'. Justify the shift in the apostrophe's position. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a sign for Max's shop that includes at least one example of an apostrophe for possession and one example of an apostrophe for omission (contraction).



Extension challenge: Write a short, persuasive advertisement for Max's shop. You must include: two examples of apostrophes for singular possession, one example of an apostrophe for plural possession, and two contractions. What might happen to the meaning of your sentences if you accidentally misplaced or omitted these apostrophes?