

Max's Magnificent Market Maths

Learning objective: To identify and use apostrophes for possession and contraction accurately.

Read the passage below carefully. Pay close attention to the use of apostrophes before answering the questions. Ensure your answers are written in full sentences.

Max the monkey is currently organising the BookFlik community market stall. He isn't just counting fruit; he is fascinated by the stall's layout. 'This is the lion's collection of poetry,' Max exclaimed, pointing to a neat stack of books. Nearby, Pip the caterpillar's favourite snacks were laid out in a colourful row. Max noted that the farmers' produce had arrived early. 'It's going to be a busy day,' he chuckled. He checked the price tags carefully. A bag of apples costs £2.50, but the oranges' price was missing. Max quickly grabbed a pen to label them. 'They're ready now!' he shouted. He took pride in the fact that every item was perfectly placed. Being a perfectionist, Max ensured that no apostrophe was misplaced. He knew that the children's excitement would make the hard work worthwhile. As the sun climbed higher, Nova the owl flew down to help. She observed how Max's organisation transformed the market into a place of wonder. Everything was in its rightful spot, from the poets' scrolls to the bees' jars of golden honey.

Word bank: contraction · possession · omitted · singular · plural

1. Identify two examples of possessive apostrophes used in the text. Explain who or what possesses the items. (2 marks)

2. Find two examples of contractions in the text and write the full words they represent. (2 marks)

3. Why does the author use an apostrophe after the 's' in 'farmers' and 'oranges', rather than before it? (2 marks)

4. What does the text suggest about Max's personality based on how he manages the market stall? (2 marks)

5. Do you agree with Max that using correct punctuation is important for a market stall? Justify your answer using evidence from the text. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene of Max the monkey at his market stall, labelling at least three items using possessive apostrophes (e.g., 'the monkey's hat').



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph describing a new stall at the market. You must include at least two examples of singular possession, one example of plural possession, and one contraction. Then, explain why the placement of the apostrophe changes the meaning of the word 'doctors' in the phrase 'the doctors' coats' compared to 'the doctor's coat'.