

Max's Maths Market: The Apostrophe Investigation

Learning objective: To use apostrophes for possession and contraction accurately within a narrative context.

Max the monkey is organising a charity market stall! Help him prepare by completing his inventory list and diary entry. You must use apostrophes correctly to show possession (e.g., Max's bananas) and contraction (e.g., it's, don't). Remember, plurals do not take apostrophes unless they are possessive!

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

1. Max's Inventory: List three items for sale at the stall. Use a possessive apostrophe for each (e.g., The monkey's apples). (3 marks)

2. The Market Rules: Write two sentences explaining what customers should do. Use one contraction in each sentence (e.g., 'Don't forget your coins'). (4 marks)

3. Explain why the apostrophe in 'the monkeys' bananas' is different from the apostrophe in 'the monkey's banana'. (3 marks)

4. Justify your answer: Is it correct to write 'The price of the bag is £5.00, it's a bargain'? Why or why not? (3 marks)

5. Compare and contrast: How does the meaning change if you move the apostrophe in 'the pupils' work' to 'the pupil's work'? (3 marks)

6. What might happen if a shopkeeper forgot to use apostrophes on all their price labels? Describe the potential confusion. (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Write a short, persuasive advertisement for Max's market. You must include at least three examples of possessive apostrophes and three examples of contractions. Underline your apostrophes in a bright colour!