

Mastering Apostrophes with Max and Kit

Learning objective: To use apostrophes for omission (contractions) and possession (singular and plural) accurately in written English.

Read the story below featuring Max the monkey and Kit the fox. Identify the apostrophes used for contractions and possession. Then, complete the challenges to test your understanding of these punctuation marks.

Max the monkey was busy organising his collection of maths puzzles. 'It's time to solve these,' Max announced, pointing to the fox's clever diagrams. Kit's desk was covered in paper. 'I've finished the calculations,' Kit said, adjusting his glasses. The pupils' hard work was evident across the room. Max looked at the monkeys' favourite abacus, which sat near the lion's poetry notebook. 'We haven't failed yet!' Max cheered, his enthusiasm infectious.

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

1. Identify two examples of apostrophes used for omission (contractions) in the passage and write the two words they represent. (2 marks)

2. Find the word 'fox's' in the text. Explain why the apostrophe is placed before the 's'. (2 marks)

3. Look at the phrase 'the monkeys' favourite abacus'. Why is the apostrophe placed after the 's' instead of before it? (2 marks)

4. Rewrite the following sentence using a contraction: 'We do not know where the treasure is hidden.' (1 mark)

5. Justify why the sentence 'The cats whiskers were long' is grammatically incorrect and provide the corrected version. (2 marks)

6. Compare and contrast the function of an apostrophe when used in 'it's' (it is) versus 'dogs' (plural). (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene where Max and Kit are working in their treehouse laboratory. Label three items in your drawing using possessive apostrophes (e.g., 'Kit's beaker', 'Max's ruler', 'the friends' map').



Extension challenge: What might happen to the meaning of a sentence if an apostrophe is misplaced? Write a short, creative paragraph about a 'Grammar Goblin' who goes around moving apostrophes, causing chaos in the library. Use at least three examples of possessive apostrophes in your story.