

Mastering Apostrophes with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To understand and apply the correct use of apostrophes for possession and omission.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below. Remember to check if an apostrophe is showing ownership or replacing a missing letter.

Max the monkey is always busy solving maths puzzles in the jungle. He often says, 'It's time to work!' which is a clever way of saying 'It is'. Max uses an apostrophe for omission when he shortens words. However, when he talks about his friends, he uses apostrophes for possession. He might say, 'That is Pip's favourite book,' showing that the book belongs to the caterpillar. If he talks about the collective belongings of his friends, he is extra careful. If the noun is plural, like the 'monkeys' bananas', the apostrophe goes after the 's'. But if the group is irregular, such as 'the children's puzzles', the apostrophe goes before the 's'. Max thinks apostrophes are like little hooks that catch letters or show who owns what. He reminds us that they are tiny marks with big jobs. Whether he is writing about the elephant's trunk or explaining why he can't wait for lunch, Max ensures every mark is in the right place. Precision is the key to clear writing, and Max loves a challenge!

Word bank: Apostrophe · Possession · Omission · Contraction · Singular · Plural

1. Identify two examples from the text where an apostrophe is used for omission (contraction). (2 marks)

2. According to the text, where should you place the apostrophe when talking about 'monkeys' bananas'? (2 marks)

3. Why does the author describe apostrophes as 'little hooks'? (2 marks)

4. What does the phrase 'the children's puzzles' tell us about the plural form of 'child'? (2 marks)

5. Do you think Max's method of comparing apostrophes to 'hooks' is an effective way to learn? Justify your opinion. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw Max the monkey holding a giant magnifying glass, looking at a sentence written on a large leaf where the apostrophes are sparkling brightly.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph about your favourite hobby using at least two apostrophes for possession and two apostrophes for omission.