

Mastering Apostrophes with Max and Pip

Learning objective: To understand and use apostrophes for both singular/plural possession and for contraction in formal and informal writing.

Read the short story below featuring Max the monkey and Pip the caterpillar. Identify the apostrophes used for possession and contraction, then answer the questions that follow.

Max the monkey was busy organising his collection of maths puzzles. 'It's going to be a brilliant afternoon,' Max said, pointing to the shelf. He carefully placed Pip the caterpillar's favourite book next to the others. The children's library was quiet, but the atmosphere was buzzing with excitement. 'Don't worry,' Pip chirped, 'the teachers' meeting will finish soon.' They looked at the monkey's colourful charts and the caterpillars' tiny footprints on the map. They couldn't wait to start their adventure.

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

1. Identify two contractions from the passage and write the two words they represent (e.g., can't = cannot). (2 marks)

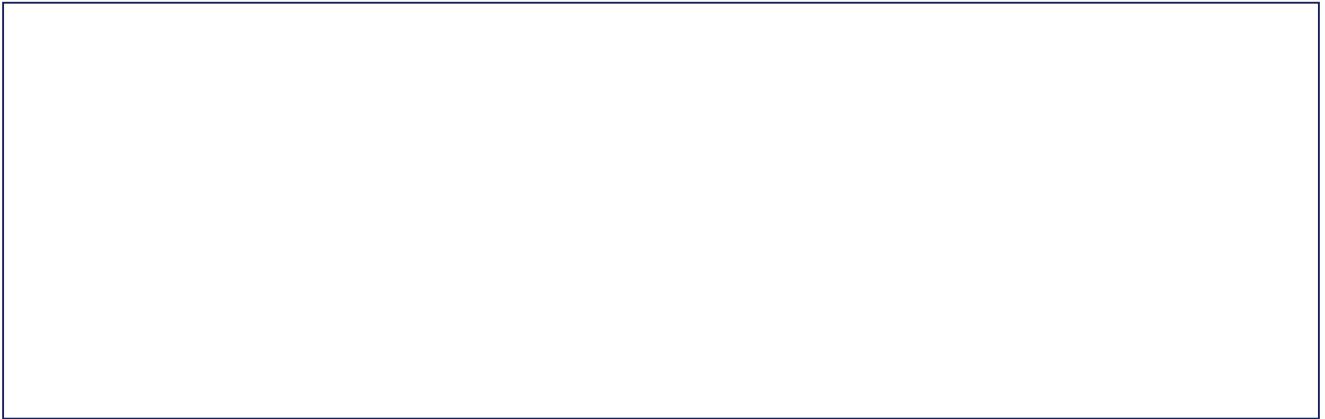
2. Explain why there is an apostrophe in 'Pip the caterpillar's favourite book'. (1 mark)

3. Look at the phrase 'the teachers' meeting'. Why does the apostrophe come after the 's' instead of before it? (2 marks)

4. Rewrite this sentence using a contraction: 'Max could not find his ruler, so he did not know the length of the branch.' (2 marks)

5. Write a sentence of your own about Max or Pip that uses a possessive apostrophe for a singular noun. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a scene of Max the monkey helping Pip the caterpillar tidy up a library, including a sign that says 'Caterpillars' Books' and a clock that says 'It's time for stories'.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph explaining the difference between 'its' (possessive) and 'it's' (contraction). Provide one example sentence for each to prove you understand the rule.