

Max's Theatrical Maths: A Playscript Quiz

Learning objective: To identify and apply the key structural features of a playscript, including stage directions, character names, and dialogue.

Help Max the monkey organise his latest production! Read the questions carefully and use your knowledge of playscripts to solve these puzzles. Write your answers clearly.

Answer Key: 1. C; 2. True; 3. Stage directions; 4. B; 5. False (they are usually in italics or parentheses); 6. B; 7. Dialogue; 8. True; 9. B; 10. A. Higher-order answers: Q11 - Stage directions guide actors on movement and emotion, whereas dialogue is the spoken word; Q12 - Without them, actors would not know where to stand or how to feel, making the performance confusing.

Word bank: Stage directions · Dialogue · Cast list · Scene heading · Parentheses · Setting · Action · Character

1. 1. Which feature tells the actors how to move or how to feel? A) Dialogue B) Character list C) Stage directions* D) Heading (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: Character names in a playscript are usually written in capital letters or bold before their lines. (1 mark)

3. 3. What term describes the list of all the actors who appear in the play? (1 mark)

4. 4. Where are stage directions usually placed? A) At the end of the play B) Inside parentheses or in italics* C) In the footer D) In the title (1 mark)

5. 5. True or False: You should always use quotation marks around dialogue in a playscript. (1 mark)

6. 6. Which part of a script tells us the time and place of the action? A) The prologue B) Scene heading* C) The index D) The epilogue (1 mark)

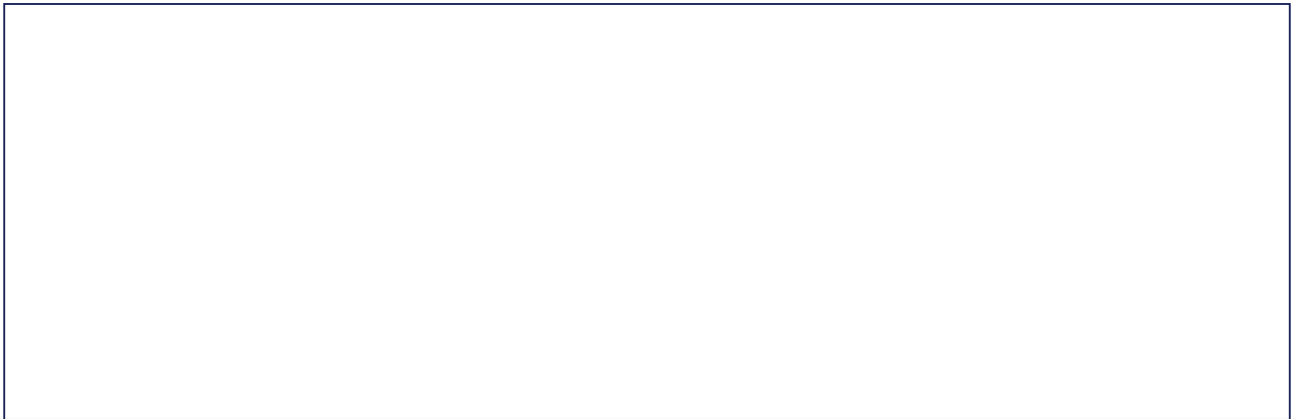
7. 7. What is the name for the words that the characters actually speak aloud? (1 mark)

8. 8. True or False: Playscripts are designed to be performed by actors rather than read as a storybook. (1 mark)

9. 9. If Max wants to show that a character is whispering, where should he write it? A) In the dialogue B) In the stage directions* C) On the cover D) In the scene heading (1 mark)

10. 10. Which of these is a common feature of a playscript? A) A list of characters* B) Chapters C) Narrator's long descriptions D) Stanza breaks (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a stage set for a play about Nova the owl stargazing. Label where the actors should stand and include one stage direction in brackets to show how an actor should move.



Extension challenge: Greater Depth Questions: 11. Explain why a playwright needs to include both dialogue and stage directions to create a successful performance. 12. Justify your answer: What might happen to the audience's understanding of the story if the playwright decided to remove all stage directions from the script? 13. Compare and contrast a playscript with a narrative story—what are the fundamental differences in how they present information to the reader?