

Max's Punctuation Puzzle Challenge

Learning objective: To accurately use and identify a range of punctuation, including colons, semi-colons, brackets, and dashes, to mark boundaries and clarify meaning.

Max the monkey is organising his collection of mathematical puzzles, but he has mixed up his punctuation! Help him fix his notes by answering these 10 quick-fire questions.

Answer Key: 1. A (semi-colon); 2. True; 3. Colon; 4. B (brackets); 5. False (it's a dash); 6. Semi-colon; 7. C (inverted commas); 8. True; 9. Dash; 10. B (comma).

Word bank: colon · semi-colon · brackets · dash · parenthesis · comma · full stop · inverted commas

1. 1. Which punctuation mark is best used to join two independent clauses that are closely related? A) Semi-colon* B) Comma C) Full stop D) Question mark (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: You can use a colon to introduce a list of items. (1 mark)

3. 3. What is the name of the punctuation mark used here: 'Max had one goal: to solve the mystery.' (1 mark)

4. 4. Which punctuation marks should be used to add extra, non-essential information into a sentence? A) Full stops B) Brackets* C) Question marks D) Apostrophes (1 mark)

5. 5. True or False: The symbol '-' is always called a hyphen. (1 mark)

6. 6. Fill in the blank: A _____ is used to separate items in a complex list if the items already contain commas. (1 mark)

7. 7. Which punctuation marks are used to show direct speech? A) Brackets B) Colons C) Inverted commas* D) Dashes (1 mark)

8. 8. True or False: Every sentence must contain a capital letter and a closing punctuation mark. (1 mark)

9. 9. Identify the punctuation mark used for emphasis in this sentence: 'The prize was huge—a whole crate of bananas!' (1 mark)

10. 10. Which mark is used to separate a fronted adverbial from the rest of the sentence? A) Colon B) Comma* C) Semi-colon D) Brackets (1 mark)

Draw: Draw Max the monkey holding a giant magnifying glass, looking closely at a floating colon and a semi-colon that are trying to hide behind a banana tree.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph about Max the monkey preparing for a maths competition. You must include at least one colon to introduce a list, one set of brackets for extra detail, and one dash for emphasis.