

Mastering Punctuation with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To use a range of punctuation marks (commas, semi-colons, dashes, and colons) to clarify meaning and add clarity to writing.

Read the short story about Max the Monkey's jungle market stall. Carefully insert the missing punctuation marks into the passage below to ensure the sentences flow correctly.

Max the monkey was feeling very excited today. He had spent all morning preparing his fruit stall for the jungle market: he had neatly arranged bananas, juicy mangoes, and sweet papayas. Max – who loved organising his stock by colour – whistled a happy tune while he waited for his first customer. He checked his ledger; he had already earned £12.50. His friend Ellie the elephant arrived with a heavy basket. She needed three items: a bunch of yellow bananas, a ripe mango, and a large papaya. Max beamed at her. It was going to be a brilliant day for business.

Word bank: Semicolon · Colon · Dash · Comma · Parenthesis · Clause

1. Identify one example of a colon in the passage. Explain why it was used by the author. (2 marks)

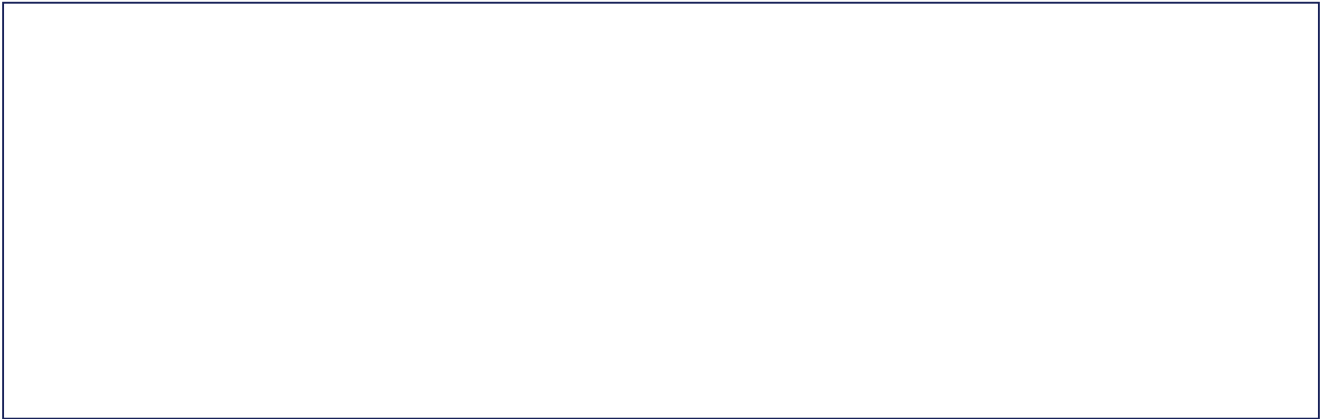
2. Why has the author used dashes around the phrase 'who loved organising his stock by colour'? (2 marks)

3. Find the sentence containing a semicolon. Explain what the semicolon does in this specific sentence. (2 marks)

4. Rewrite the following sentence by adding commas for a list: 'Max sold apples pears oranges and plums for £2.00 each.' (1 mark)

5. Why do we use commas after introductory phrases in a sentence? Provide an example. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw Max the monkey standing at his colourful market stall. Make sure he has a sign showing the prices of his fruit in £ (pounds).



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph about your own dream market stall. You must include at least one colon to introduce a list, one pair of dashes for extra information, and one semicolon to join two independent clauses.