

Mastering Punctuation: A Punctuation Assessment

Learning objective: To demonstrate accurate use of inverted commas (speech marks) and accompanying punctuation for direct speech in line with Year 5 expectations.

Read the following sentences and tasks carefully. Ensure all speech is enclosed in inverted commas and that commas, full stops, question marks, and exclamation marks are positioned correctly inside the speech marks where appropriate.

Max the monkey sat in the high branches of the forest, carefully observing the fruit below. He looked down at his friend, Pip the caterpillar, who was currently reading a book on a large leaf. Max shouted down to his friend, asking if he wanted to share a snack. Pip looked up, smiled, and told Max that he would love to join him for a meal.

Word bank: Inverted commas · Reporting clause · Punctuation · Dialogue · Direct speech

1. Rewrite the following sentence by adding the missing inverted commas: Max shouted, Are you hungry, Pip? (2 marks)

2. Rewrite this sentence with the reporting clause at the end: 'I have found a delicious mango,' said Max. (2 marks)

3. Explain why we must place a comma after the reporting clause when it comes before the speech. Why is this rule important for the reader? (3 marks)

4. Rewrite this dialogue correctly including all necessary punctuation: Pip replied that he was very hungry and asked if the mango was ripe. (4 marks)

5. Compare and contrast the use of a comma and a question mark when closing speech. Under what circumstances would you use each? (4 marks)

6. Justify your answer: Does the position of the reporting clause change the meaning of the sentence? Provide an example to support your reasoning. (5 marks)

7. Write a short paragraph (3-4 sentences) featuring a conversation between Nova and Kit. You must include at least one question and one exclamation within the speech marks. Total: 5 marks. (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene where Max and Pip are having a picnic in the trees. Include a speech bubble showing Max saying: 'This is the perfect lunch!'



Extension challenge: Imagine you are an author writing a story about Nova and Kit discovering a mysterious map. Write a dialogue between them that reveals the map's location. Focus on using varied verbs for your reporting clauses (e.g., whispered, exclaimed, pondered) instead of just 'said'. Total: /25