

Mastering Speech Marks with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To accurately use and punctuate direct speech using inverted commas, commas, and reporting clauses.

Read the following sentences carefully. Max the Monkey has been busy solving maths puzzles, but he needs your help to fix the punctuation in his storybook! Answer the questions below to ensure his dialogue is perfectly formatted.

1. * 'I have found ten bananas!' Max shouted. 2. True. 3. False (The comma goes inside the inverted commas). 4. 'How many monkeys are in the tree?' asked Nova. 5. False. 6. True. 7. 'Wait!' cried Pip. 8. 'I wonder,' mused Ellie, 'if we have enough time to finish the project.' 9. Reporting clause. 10. A: 'Look at that pattern!' exclaimed Zara.

Word bank: inverted commas · reporting clause · dialogue · punctuation · capital letter

1. 1. Which option shows the correct punctuation for Max saying he found ten bananas? A: 'I have found ten bananas!' Max shouted. B: 'I have found ten bananas!' Max shouted.* C: I have found ten bananas! 'Max shouted.' D: 'I have found ten bananas' Max shouted. (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: Every piece of direct speech must begin with a capital letter inside the inverted commas. (1 mark)

3. 3. True or False: If the reporting clause comes after the speech, you should place a full stop inside the inverted commas. (1 mark)

4. 4. Select the correctly punctuated sentence: A: 'How many monkeys are in the tree' asked Nova. B: 'How many monkeys are in the tree?' asked Nova.* C: 'How many monkeys are in the tree?' Asked Nova. D: How many monkeys are in the tree? 'asked Nova.' (1 mark)

5. 5. True or False: You should use a question mark inside the inverted commas if the speaker is asking a question. (1 mark)

6. 6. True or False: A comma is required to separate the speech from the reporting clause if the reporting clause comes at the end. (1 mark)

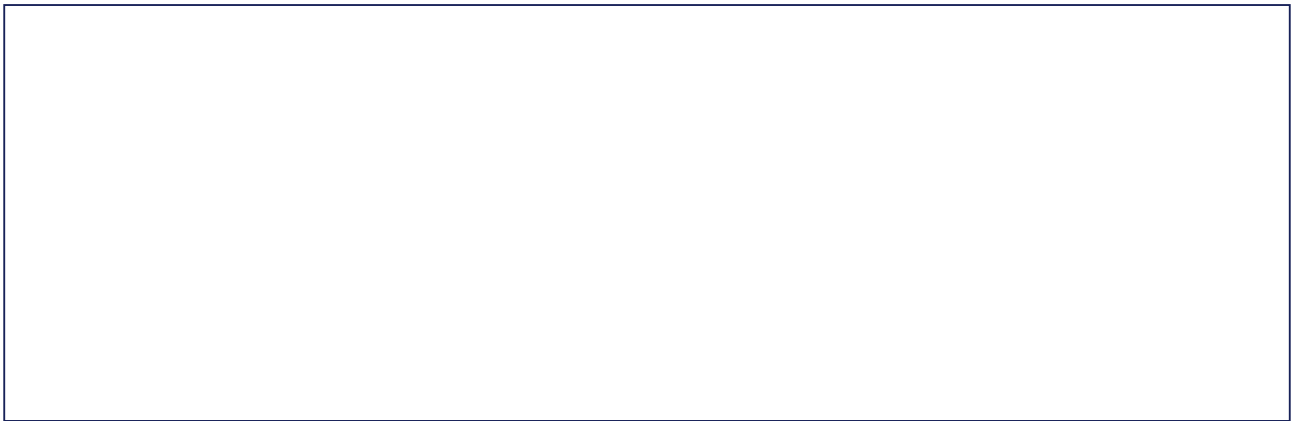
7. 7. Write the missing punctuation for: 'Wait!' cried Pip. (Identify where the inverted commas go). (1 mark)

8. 8. Insert the correct punctuation into: I wonder mused Ellie if we have enough time to finish the project. (1 mark)

9. 9. In the sentence 'I am hungry,' said Leo, what is the phrase 'said Leo' called? (1 mark)

10. 10. Which is the best way to punctuate Zara's exclamation? A: 'Look at that pattern!' exclaimed Zara.* B: 'Look at that pattern' exclaimed Zara! C: 'Look at that pattern!' Exclaimed Zara. D: Look at that pattern! 'exclaimed Zara.' (1 mark)

Draw: Draw Max the Monkey sitting in a tree, holding a chalkboard that displays a perfectly punctuated sentence of speech. Show his friends, Nova and Pip, looking up at the board in amazement.



Extension challenge: 1. Explain why we use inverted commas when writing stories. 2. Compare and contrast the use of a comma and a question mark when closing speech. 3. Justify why a capital letter is necessary at the start of direct speech. 4. What might happen to the reader's understanding if speech marks were omitted entirely from a long novel? 5. Write a short paragraph featuring a conversation between Kit and Bea using at least three different reporting verbs. 6. Challenge: Rewrite a scene from your favourite history book, but change the dialogue to reflect a modern-day setting while keeping the speech punctuation accurate.