

Max the Maths Monkey's Dialogue Diary

Learning objective: To use inverted commas (speech marks) accurately to punctuate direct speech, including the use of commas and capital letters within the speech.

Max the monkey has been solving puzzles in the jungle and wants to tell his friends all about it. Use this template to write a short conversation between Max and another character. Remember to open your speech with a capital letter, use a comma inside the speech marks before the reporting clause, and place your closing speech marks at the very end of the spoken words.

Word bank: exclaimed · inquired · muttered · replied · shouted · whispered · puzzled · delighted

1. The Opening Puzzle: Write a sentence where Max asks a friend for help with a tricky maths problem. Ensure you use inverted commas correctly. (2 marks)

2. The Clever Response: Write a reply from a friend (you could choose Pip, Nova, or Ellie) where they offer a solution. Explain why you chose the specific verb you used after the comma. (3 marks)

3. The Discovery: Max realises the answer! Write a sentence where Max shouts his discovery. Compare and contrast how your punctuation changes if the reporting clause (e.g., 'Max shouted') comes before or after the speech. (3 marks)

4. Justify your answer: Why is it important to start a new paragraph or line every time the speaker changes in a written conversation? (2 marks)

5. What might happen if a writer forgot to include inverted commas entirely? How would this affect the reader's understanding of the story? (3 marks)

6. Creative Extension: Write a short dialogue between Max and Leo the Lion about a problem they found in the forest. Include at least one sentence where the speech is split by the reporting clause (e.g., 'Help me,' said Max, 'with this sum.'). (4 marks)
