Max’s Math Store

Learning objective: To identify and use apostrophes for possession and omission.

Read the story below about Max. Use the word bank to help you understand the words. Answer the questions in the boxes provided.

Max the monkey loves to visit the local market. He counts all the coins in the trader’s bag. “It’s time to buy some fruit,” Max says with a grin. He walks to the baker’s stall. The baker’s bread smells delicious. Max sees a sign that says: ‘Don’t forget your pennies!’ Max reaches into his pocket. He has a five-pound note and some silver coins. He doesn’t want to be late for his friends. He picks up a bag of apples that belongs to the market stall. “They’re perfect for a snack,” Max thinks. He pays the trader £2.50. Max is happy because he has solved the puzzle of the price. He loves using math in the real world. His friend Pip the caterpillar is waiting under a leaf. “I’ve bought a treat for us!” Max shouts. He skips home, feeling very clever. He knows that using apostrophes makes his writing much tidier and easier to read. He can’t wait to show Pip his new book of math puzzles later today.

Word bank: Apostrophe: a punctuation mark (’), · Possession: showing that something belongs to someone, · Omission: when letters are left out of a word.

1. Find two examples of words in the text that use an apostrophe for omission (where letters are missing). (2 marks)

2. Whose stall does Max visit to smell the delicious bread? (1 mark)

3. Why do you think Max is happy when he pays the trader? (2 marks)

4. Looking at the phrase ‘the baker’s bread’, what does the apostrophe tell us about the bread? (2 marks)

5. Max says that apostrophes make writing 'tidier'. Do you agree? Why? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw Max the monkey standing at a market stall with a bag of shiny red apples.

Extension challenge: Write two sentences of your own using an apostrophe. One sentence must show something belongs to you (e.g., 'Leo's pencil'), and one must show missing letters (e.g., 'I'm').