

A Conversation with Max the Monkey: Mastering Speech Marks

Learning objective: To use inverted commas (speech marks) and other punctuation to indicate direct speech accurately in Year 6 writing.

Max the Monkey is trying to solve a tricky maths puzzle, but he needs your help to record the conversation he is having with his friends. Fill in the dialogue boxes below, remembering to use inverted commas (") for spoken words, capital letters for the start of speech, and correct punctuation inside the closing speech mark.

Word bank: exclaimed · inquired · muttered · replied · shouted · whispered · calculated · pondered

1. The Opening: Max is looking at a complex maths problem. Write a sentence where Max speaks to himself, using an inverted comma at the start and end of his speech. (2 marks)

2. The Interaction: Pip the caterpillar crawls over to help. Write a sentence where Pip speaks to Max, including a reporting clause (e.g., 'Pip said') after the speech. (3 marks)

3. The Disagreement: Max disagrees with Pip's idea. Write a sentence using a question mark inside the speech marks to show Max is asking for clarification. (3 marks)

4. The Realisation: They finally solve the puzzle together! Write a sentence where one of them shouts with excitement, using an exclamation mark inside the speech marks. (2 marks)

5. The Conclusion: Write a final exchange between the two friends, using a new line for each person speaking to show a change in speaker. (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Challenge: Can you write a short paragraph of at least four sentences where Max and Pip discuss their favourite hobbies, ensuring you use a mix of speech at the beginning and the end of your sentences, and including at least one adverb to describe how they speak?