

Mastering Speech Marks with Max the Monkey

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

Read each task carefully. Remember that speech marks go around the words actually spoken. Max the Monkey has provided some tricky sentences for you to punctuate correctly!

Max the Monkey is busy solving maths puzzles in the jungle. He loves to talk about his work!

Word bank: inverted commas · direct speech · reporting clause · punctuation · capital letter

1. Rewrite this sentence adding the missing inverted commas: Max shouted, I have finally solved the equation! (2 marks)

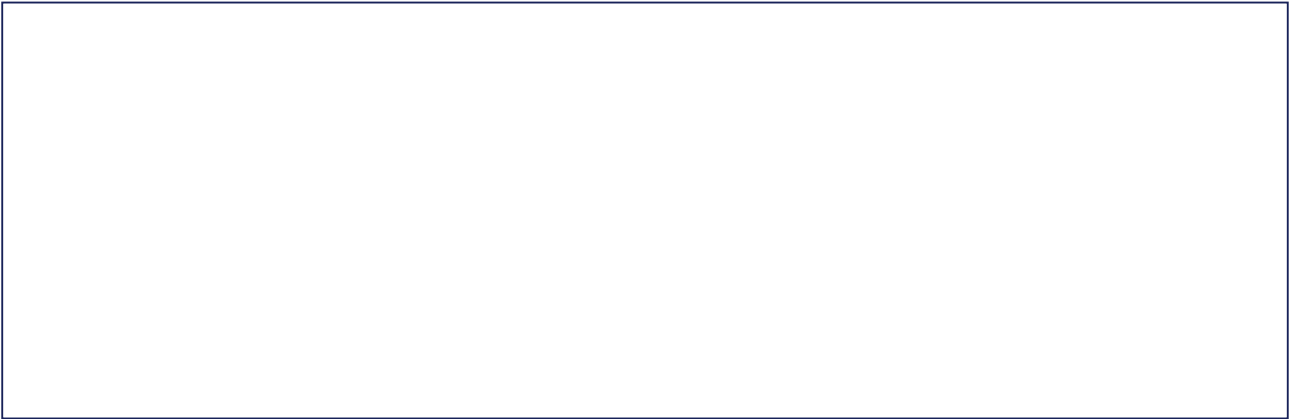
2. Correct the punctuation in this sentence: the zebra asked zara do you like the pattern on this leaf? (3 marks)

3. Explain why we use a comma before the opening inverted comma when the reporting clause comes first. (2 marks)

4. Rewrite this sentence so the reporting clause comes after the speech: Pip the caterpillar said, I have found a wonderful new word. (2 marks)

5. Write a short dialogue (two lines of speech) between Nova the owl and Finn the dolphin about exploring the night sky. (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a speech bubble coming from Max the Monkey, and write a mathematical joke inside it using correct punctuation.



Extension challenge: Write a paragraph describing a conversation between Ellie the elephant and Kit the fox. You must include at least one example of speech where the reporting clause is in the middle of the sentence, such as: 'The answer,' whispered Kit, 'is hidden in the code.'