

Max the Monkey's Punctuation Puzzle

Learning objective: To use apostrophes for possession and singular contraction in sentences.

Read the story below about Max the Monkey and answer the questions. Make sure you use apostrophes correctly to show who owns what, or to show where letters have been missing in a contraction.

Max the monkey was busy preparing for his jungle party. He looked at his list. 'It's going to be a brilliant day!' Max cheered. He carefully placed the elephant's colourful balloons near the tree. Next, he checked the fox's clever puzzle boxes. Suddenly, Max realised he had forgotten the snacks. 'I'm sorry I haven't brought the fruit yet,' he told his friends. The owl's telescope was pointed at the sky, and the zebra's paintbrush was ready to decorate the leaves. Everything was perfect.

Word bank: contraction · possession · apostrophe · singular · plural

1. Find two examples of words in the passage that use an apostrophe for a contraction. Write them down and explain what the two original words were (e.g., can't = cannot). (2 marks)

2. Identify two examples of possession from the passage (e.g., someone owning an object). Explain who owns what in each example. (2 marks)

3. Rewrite this sentence using an apostrophe for possession: The hat belonging to the lion was very shiny. (1 mark)

4. Rewrite this sentence using a contraction: We do not want to be late for the adventure. (1 mark)

5. Why is there an apostrophe in the word 'elephant's' in the passage, but not in the word 'monkeys' if you were talking about a group of many monkeys? Explain the difference. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the monkey holding a sign that says 'Max's Party' and another sign that says 'It's time to play!'



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph about an adventure with Pip the caterpillar. Use at least two apostrophes for possession (e.g., Pip's leaf) and two contractions (e.g., don't, she's).