

Mastering Apostrophes with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To understand and use apostrophes for contraction and possession.

Read the information about Max's busy day. Look at the word mat to help you decide when to use an apostrophe for missing letters or to show who owns something. Complete the questions below.

Max the monkey is a master of maths. Today, he is busy organising his jungle classroom. Max's favourite whiteboard is covered in sums. 'It isn't time for a nap yet!' he says to the class. He picks up the teacher's red pen to mark the work. All of the children's books are piled neatly on the desk. Max doesn't like it when things are messy, so he sorts the pencils into colour groups.

Word bank: Contraction · Possession · Apostrophe · Singular · Plural · Ownership · Cannot · Max's · Children's

1. Find two examples of contractions in the passage and write the words they replace. (2 marks)

2. Explain why there is an apostrophe in the word 'Max's' in the first paragraph. (2 marks)

3. Rewrite this sentence using a contraction: 'Max does not want to lose his favourite pencil.' (1 mark)

4. If there were three monkeys, how would you write that the bananas belong to all of them? (Hint: The plural ends in s). (2 marks)

5. Write a sentence of your own about a pet using an apostrophe for possession. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw Max the monkey in his classroom, and label three items he owns using apostrophes, for example: 'Max's ruler' or 'Max's bag'.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph about a day out with Pip the caterpillar. Use at least two examples of singular possession (e.g., Pip's leaf) and two contractions (e.g., won't, I'm).