

Max's Market Maths: The Apostrophe Adventure

Learning objective: To understand and use apostrophes for possession and omission in Year 4 writing.

Read the story below about Max the monkey at the local market. Find the sentences that need apostrophes. Remember: use an apostrophe for possession (e.g., Max's banana) or to show where letters are missing in a contraction (e.g., it's for it is).

Max the monkey arrived at the market with his basket. He wanted to buy some fruit for his friends. Max saw the greengrocer's stall. The apples were shiny and red. It is a busy morning, so Max must be quick. He picked up the elephant's favourite snack, which were crunchy peanuts. He also grabbed Pip the caterpillar's favourite leaf. Max thought, 'I cannot wait to share these treats!' He checked his list again to make sure he had not forgotten anything.

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

1. Identify two examples of possession in the passage and explain who owns the item in each case. (2 marks)

2. Find the word 'cannot' in the passage. Write the contraction for this word and explain what the apostrophe replaces. (2 marks)

3. Change this sentence to use an apostrophe for possession: 'The tail belonging to the lion was very long.' (1 mark)

4. Rewrite this phrase as a contraction: 'He did not want any more fruit.' (1 mark)

5. Explain why we use an apostrophe in 'greengrocer's' but not in the word 'apples'. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the monkey at a market stall. Label three items he has bought using apostrophes for possession (e.g., Max's basket, the monkey's hat).



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph about a shopping trip you went on. You must include at least two examples of apostrophes for possession and two examples of contractions.