

Punctuation Perfection with Max and Pip

Learning objective: To use fronted adverbials, commas, and possessive apostrophes correctly within a narrative passage.

Read the story below. Max the monkey is trying to organise his maths puzzles, but he has forgotten his punctuation! Help him by adding commas after fronted adverbials and inserting apostrophes to show ownership.

Early in the morning Max climbed to the top of the tree. He grabbed his best friends notebook to record his findings. Pip the caterpillar watched from a leaf. With a happy smile Pip pointed to the monkey's bag. Inside the bag were the maths teacher's favourite puzzles. After a long time Max finished his work. He tucked the monkey's pencil away and thanked his friend.

Word bank: fronted adverbial · comma · possessive apostrophe · possession · clue

1. Identify the two fronted adverbials used in the passage and explain why a comma is needed after them. (2 marks)

2. Find the two words in the passage that need a possessive apostrophe to show ownership and rewrite them correctly. (2 marks)

3. Why does the word 'monkey's' in the text need an apostrophe, but the word 'apples' (if it were there) might not? (2 marks)

4. Rewrite the final sentence of the passage, adding an extra fronted adverbial of your own choice at the beginning. (2 marks)

5. Add the missing punctuation to this sentence: 'During the lesson the pupils pens were kept in the teachers drawer.' (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene of Max the monkey and Pip the caterpillar working together in a library, making sure to label one item using a possessive apostrophe (e.g., Pip's book).



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph about an adventure you had today. You must include at least two fronted adverbials with commas and one plural possessive apostrophe (e.g., 'the children's games').