

Max the Maths Monkey's Punctuation Puzzle

Learning objective: To identify and use correctly the punctuation marks: full stops, capital letters, commas, question marks, and exclamation marks.

Read the story about Max the monkey below. Max has been so busy solving maths puzzles that he has forgotten to finish his sentences properly! Read the text carefully and then answer the questions.

Max the monkey sat in his favourite tree. He had a big pile of numbers to sort out. 'How many bananas do I have?' he asked himself. He counted them one by one: one, two, three, and four. Suddenly, he spotted a golden coin! 'Wow, what a brilliant treasure!' Max shouted. He wondered if he could use the coin to buy a new maths set. He picked up his pen, opened his notebook, and started to write a list. The list included a ruler, a protractor, a rubber, and a sharp pencil.

Word bank: Punctuation · Capital letter · Full stop · Question mark · Exclamation mark · Comma · Sentence

1. Find and copy one sentence from the passage that ends with a question mark. Why does it need a question mark? (2 marks)

2. Look at the list in the final sentence. Why are commas used between the items? (2 marks)

3. Find an exclamation mark in the text. Why do you think the author chose to use an exclamation mark there instead of a full stop? (2 marks)

4. Write a new sentence about Max using a capital letter for his name and a full stop at the end. (1 mark)

5. Max wants to ask a friend for help. Write a question he might ask, making sure to use the correct punctuation. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the monkey sitting in his tree with his list of items, and draw a speech bubble coming from his mouth showing what he is shouting.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph of three sentences about an adventure Max has. Use at least one question mark, one exclamation mark, and one comma in your writing.