

Max's Magnificent Punctuation Guide

Learning objective: To use and punctuate direct speech correctly, including the use of inverted commas and other punctuation.

Read the story of Max the monkey below. He is trying to solve a maths puzzle! Look carefully at where he speaks, then answer the questions to help him fix his punctuation.

Max the monkey sat in the ancient oak tree with his notepad. He looked at his friends and shouted, 'I have solved the puzzle!' Pip the caterpillar crawled closer and asked, 'How did you find the answer so quickly?' Max smiled and replied, 'I simply counted the acorns.'

Word bank: inverted commas · speech marks · capital letter · comma · full stop · question mark · exclamation mark

1. Identify the inverted commas in the passage. Why are they used in the sentence: 'I have solved the puzzle!'? (2 marks)

2. Look at the sentence: Pip the caterpillar crawled closer and asked, 'How did you find the answer so quickly?'. Why does this sentence end with a question mark instead of a full stop? (2 marks)

3. Rewrite this sentence with the correct punctuation: Max said i love solving maths problems (2 marks)

4. Where should the comma go in this sentence? 'Wait for me Max!' shouted Ellie. (2 marks)

5. Write your own sentence using direct speech where a character asks a question. Remember to use your inverted commas correctly. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw Max the monkey sitting in his tree holding a sign that says 'Punctuation is a puzzle!' and include speech bubbles for his friends.



Extension challenge: Write a short dialogue between Max and Nova where they discuss a new discovery in the night sky. Ensure every time a character speaks, you start a new line and use the correct punctuation.