

Max's Market Maths: The Punctuation Puzzle

Learning objective: To use fronted adverbials, commas to clarify meaning, and possessive apostrophes correctly in a piece of writing.

Help Max the monkey organise his market stall inventory! Read the passage below, which is missing some vital punctuation. Rewrite the sentences correctly, ensuring you use commas after fronted adverbials and apostrophes to show ownership.

At the busy market Max checked the prices. Yesterday he sold five apples. The monkeys baskets were full of fruit. Without a doubt the cost of a banana is now 20p. In the morning light the stall looked beautiful. Max carefully counted the traders coins.

Word bank: fronted adverbial · comma · possessive apostrophe · ownership · clarity

1. Rewrite the sentence 'Yesterday he sold five apples' adding a comma after the fronted adverbial. (2 marks)

2. Rewrite the sentence 'The monkeys baskets were full of fruit' by adding an apostrophe to show that the baskets belong to more than one monkey. (2 marks)

3. Find the fronted adverbial in the final two sentences of the passage and rewrite those sentences with the correct punctuation. (3 marks)

4. Explain why we use an apostrophe in the phrase 'the traders coins'. (2 marks)

5. Max sold a bunch of grapes for £1.50 and a melon for £2.25. Write a sentence describing this sale using a fronted adverbial and a comma. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw Max's market stall with a sign showing the prices of his fruit, and label one item using a possessive apostrophe (e.g., Max's juicy melon).



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph about a new fruit Max is selling. You must include at least two fronted adverbials, one possessive apostrophe, and a sentence that uses a comma to avoid ambiguity.