

## Mastering Punctuation with Max the Monkey

*Learning objective: To use fronted adverbials, commas, and possessive apostrophes correctly in Year 4 writing.*

Read the story below about Max the Monkey. Look closely at the punctuation. Then, answer the questions to help Max fix his messy notes.

Early in the morning, Max arrived at the jungle library. He grabbed his favourite notebook, which was sitting on the teacher's desk. Max was excited to start his maths puzzle. Suddenly, he realised he had forgotten his pencil case. He looked at the monkey's bag, but it was empty. With a sigh, Max decided to use a bright purple pen instead.

*Word bank: fronted adverbial · comma · possessive apostrophe · noun phrase · punctuation*

**1. Identify the fronted adverbial used in the first sentence of the passage. Why has a comma been placed after it? (2 marks)**

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**2. Explain why there is an apostrophe in the word 'teacher's'. What does it tell us about the desk? (2 marks)**

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**3. Find and copy the possessive apostrophe used to describe the monkey's bag. Why is the apostrophe before the 's'? (2 marks)**

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**4. Rewrite this sentence adding a fronted adverbial and a comma: 'Max solved the difficult maths problem.' (2 marks)**

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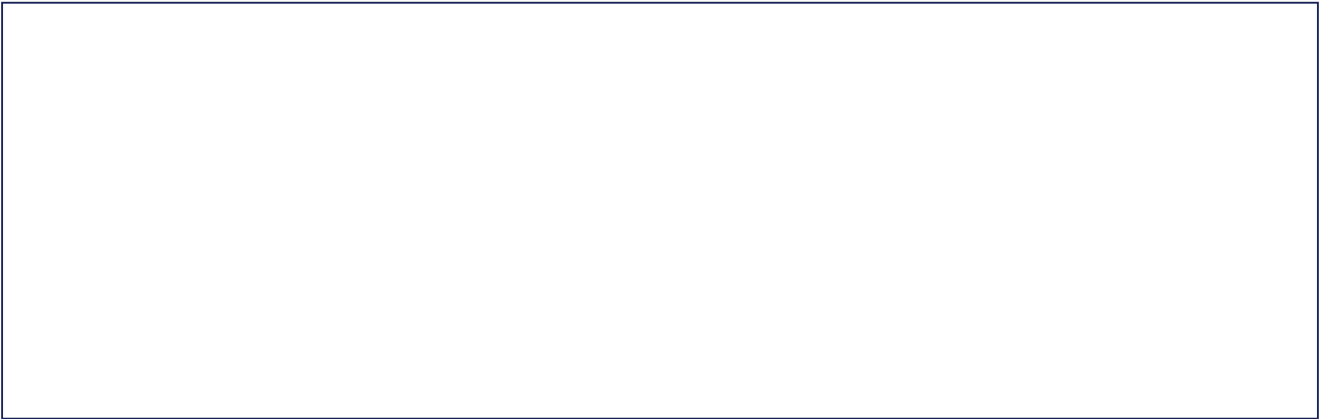
**5. Add the missing apostrophe to this sentence: 'The lions roar echoed through the trees.' (Hint: It belongs to one lion). (2 marks)**

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**Draw:** Draw a picture of Max the Monkey solving a maths puzzle at a desk. In your drawing, include a label for his notebook using a possessive apostrophe (e.g., Max's notebook).



*Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph about an adventure Pip the caterpillar goes on. You must include at least one fronted adverbial followed by a comma, and one possessive apostrophe showing something that belongs to Pip.*