

Max's Punctuation Puzzle

Learning objective: To identify and use a range of punctuation, including full stops, commas, inverted commas, and apostrophes, to improve the clarity of writing.

Help Max the monkey organise his messy notes by choosing the correct punctuation marks from the word bank to complete the sentences below. Remember to look for direct speech and possessive nouns!

Max was busy solving a maths puzzle in his notebook. He cheered, "I have finally found the answer!" He looked at the monkey's banana snack sitting on the table. It was perfectly ripe and yellow. Max wondered, "Should I eat it now or later?" He decided to take a bite, finish his work, and go outside to play.

Word bank: Full stop (.) · Comma (,) · Question mark (?) · Exclamation mark (!) · Apostrophe for possession (') · Inverted commas (" ")

1. Why has the author used inverted commas in the passage? Explain what they show about Max. (2 marks)

2. Find the word 'monkey's' in the passage. Why does it need an apostrophe? (2 marks)

3. Look at the sentence: 'He decided to take a bite, finish his work, and go outside to play.' Why are commas used here? (2 marks)

4. Write your own sentence that uses an exclamation mark to show that someone is feeling excited. (2 marks)

5. Add the missing punctuation to this sentence: Pip said I love reading books about space (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the monkey sitting at a desk covered in maths puzzles, and include a speech bubble where Max says: 'I love maths!'



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph about your favourite hobby. You must include at least one example of direct speech, a comma in a list, and an apostrophe for possession.