

# Max's Punctuation Puzzle

*Learning objective: To correctly use and place commas, apostrophes for possession, and inverted commas in direct speech.*

Read the story below about Max the monkey. Then, answer the questions to help Max fix his punctuation mistakes.

Max the monkey was busy sorting his maths tools. He found his favourite protractor and shouted, I have found the missing ruler! It was sitting under the lion's desk. Max picked up a pencil, a rubber, and a ruler. He said, Is this your equipment Leo? Leo replied that he had been looking for it all morning.

*Word bank: possession · speech · comma · inverted commas · apostrophe*

**1. Find the sentence containing direct speech in the passage. Rewrite it using the correct inverted commas. (2 marks)**

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**2. In the passage, there is an apostrophe used for possession in the phrase 'lion's desk'. Explain why the apostrophe is placed there. (2 marks)**

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**3. Max lists three items in the third sentence: 'a pencil, a rubber, and a ruler'. Why are the commas used here? (2 marks)**

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**4. Add a comma to this sentence in the correct place: 'After he finished his maths homework Max decided to go for a run.' (1 mark)**

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**5. Rewrite this sentence using an apostrophe for possession: 'The tail belonging to the monkey was very long.' (1 mark)**

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**Draw:** Draw Max the monkey holding his maths tools, and include a speech bubble above his head with a sentence that uses both a comma and inverted commas.



*Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph of three sentences about a day in the life of Nova the owl. You must include at least one example of an apostrophe for possession and one example of direct speech with inverted commas.*