

Max the Maths-Monkey's Spelling Challenge

Learning objective: To identify and correct common spelling errors, including homophones and words with silent letters.

Read the story below about Max the monkey. Look closely for the spelling mistakes that have snuck into his notes. Once you have read the passage, answer the questions that follow.

Max the monkey was busy preparing for his morning maths lesson. He sat on his favourite branch, clutching his notebook. 'I have a big task today,' Max told his friend Pip the caterpillar. 'I need to solve these puzzles before the sun goes down tonight.' Max scribbled in his book: 'If I have three apples and buy two more for £5, how many do I have?' He paused, feeling a moment of doubt about his addition. He looked across the river towards the small island where the library was kept. 'I must find the right answer,' he whispered. He watched a brave knight in a storybook illustration riding his horse. 'Their going to be so impressed when I finish my work!' Max cheered, feeling very proud of his progress.

Word bank: their · there · they're · knight · night · doubt · answer · island

1. Find and correct the two spelling mistakes in the final paragraph of the story. (2 marks)

2. Why was Max feeling a moment of 'doubt' while looking at his maths puzzle? (2 marks)

3. Explain the difference between 'knight' and 'night'. Use both words in a sentence to prove your understanding. (3 marks)

4. Why does Max use the word 'island' to describe where the library is kept? (1 mark)

5. Look at the word 'answer'. Why is this a tricky word to spell? What letter is silent? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the monkey sitting on his branch with his notebook, and include the island he is looking at in the background.



Extension challenge: Choose three words from the word bank that you find tricky. Write a short, funny poem about Max the monkey where you must use all three of those words correctly.