

Max's Magnificent Market Maths

Learning objective: To identify and categorise nouns and verbs within a narrative text, whilst developing analytical comprehension skills.

Read the passage below carefully. Then, answer the questions that follow, using evidence from the text to support your ideas. Remember to use full sentences.

Max the monkey sat atop his wooden stall, surveying the bustling market square. He clutched a shiny, red apple in one paw while his sharp eyes scanned the prices written in chalk. Today, Max felt determined to organise his collection of fruit. He carefully arranged the golden pears into neat, symmetrical pyramids. Nearby, a farmer shouted about the cost of his fresh vegetables, but Max remained focused on his calculations. He realised that commerce was merely a puzzle waiting to be solved. He calculated the total cost of three oranges at £1.50 each. A sense of pride washed over him as he verified the sum in his notebook. Suddenly, a gentle breeze rustled the colourful bunting above, and Max giggled. He decided that the joy of discovery was far more valuable than the silver coins in his wooden box. With a flick of his tail, he began sketching a new pattern, his mind dancing with possibilities. Max knew that every choice he made was a small step towards mastering the secrets of the busy marketplace.

Word bank: abstract noun · concrete noun · action verb · mental process verb · determiner

1. Identify two concrete nouns and one action verb used in the first paragraph. (2 marks)

2. What is the total cost of the three oranges that Max calculated? State the currency clearly. (2 marks)

3. Why does Max feel that the 'joy of discovery' is more valuable than the silver coins? (2 marks)

4. How does the author illustrate that Max is an organised character? (2 marks)

5. Justify why you think the author chose to describe Max's mind as 'dancing with possibilities'. What does this tell us about his personality? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a detailed scene of Max the monkey at his market stall, showing his organised pyramids of pears and his notebook filled with maths equations.



Extension challenge: Compare and contrast the noun 'apple' (a concrete noun) with the noun 'pride' (an abstract noun). Explain the difference in how we experience these two things using your own examples. Then, write a short paragraph describing a new item Max might sell, ensuring you use at least three bolded verbs to describe his actions.