

Max's Market Mystery

Learning objective: To develop verbal reasoning skills by identifying patterns, synonyms, and logical connections within a short narrative.

Read the story below about Max the monkey and answer the questions that follow. Use evidence from the text to support your answers.

Max the monkey was on a mission at the local market. He loved maths, so he treated every stall like a puzzle. First, he visited the fruit seller, who sold shiny red apples for 50p each. Max noticed a pattern: two apples cost £1.00, four cost £2.00, and six cost £3.00. He quickly realised the cost doubled as the quantity grew. Next, he walked to the baker's stall, which was filled with delicious, fresh, warm bread. Max wanted to find a word that meant the opposite of 'fresh', so he thought about 'stale' or 'old'. He loved the rhythm of the market. He noticed that for every three loaves of bread sold, the baker gave away one free biscuit. Max decided to use his logic to figure out how many biscuits he would get if he bought nine loaves. He was delighted to solve the riddle before the baker even finished wrapping his parcel. Max felt like a true detective, proving that numbers and words were the most exciting tools for any adventure.

Word bank: synonym · pattern · logic · deduce · sequence

1. According to the passage, how much does one apple cost? (1 mark)

2. How many free biscuits does the baker give away for every three loaves of bread sold? (1 mark)

3. Why does Max feel like a 'detective' at the market? (2 marks)

4. If Max buys nine loaves of bread, how many biscuits will he receive? Explain how you worked this out. (2 marks)

5. Do you think Max enjoys visiting the market? Justify your opinion using evidence from the text. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw Max the monkey standing in front of a market stall, holding a basket of apples and looking at a maths puzzle on a piece of paper.



Extension challenge: Choose three words from the text and find a synonym for each one. Then, write a new sentence for each synonym to show you understand its meaning.