

Max's Market Challenge: The Subtraction Stall

Learning objective: To subtract amounts of money using formal written methods and solve multi-step problems involving subtraction.

Max the monkey is managing a fruit stall at the local village market. He needs help calculating the change for his customers. Use your knowledge of column subtraction to find the difference between the items' prices and the money given. Remember to align your decimal points carefully and regroup where necessary. Show your working out clearly for each transaction.

Word bank: column subtraction · regrouping · decimal point · difference · pence · pounds · remainder

1. A customer buys a punnet of strawberries for £2.45. They pay with a £5.00 note. What is the exact amount of change Max should give them? Show your calculation. (2 marks)

2. A large basket of apples costs £4.12. A smaller bag of pears costs £1.85. Calculate the difference in price between the two items. Explain why you must regroup in the tenths column. (3 marks)

3. Max has a cash tin with £10.00. He spends £3.75 on new wooden crates and £2.20 on paper bags. How much money is left in the tin? Justify your answer by showing the steps. (3 marks)

4. Compare and contrast: Why is subtracting money using column subtraction similar to subtracting standard three-digit numbers? What is the most important rule to remember? (2 marks)

5. A customer hands Max a £10.00 note for a box of cherries costing £6.38. Max accidentally gives them £4.62 in change. Explain why this is incorrect and provide the correct amount. (3 marks)

6. What might happen if Max forgot to write down the decimal point when calculating his totals? Provide an example of how this could lead to a significant error. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the monkey standing at his market stall. Include labels for three different fruits with prices shown in Australian dollars and cents, ensuring the prices are clearly written for his customers to see.



Extension challenge: Design your own shop menu with five items. Write a word problem for a friend that requires them to subtract the cost of two items from a £10.00 note. Can you create a 'Greater Depth' challenge where they must buy three items and calculate the change from a £20.00 note?