

# Max the Mathematical Monkey's Market Mystery

*Learning objective: To develop verbal reasoning skills by identifying patterns, analogies, and logical connections within a narrative text.*

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions below. Think about the hidden logic behind Max's puzzles.

Max the monkey sat at his bustling market stall, surrounded by piles of shiny conkers and smooth pebbles. Max loved a good puzzle. 'If a shiny conker is to a forest as a smooth pebble is to a river, what is a star to the night sky?' he pondered, adjusting his spectacles. Today, he was organising his stock using a strict numerical sequence. He placed three red apples, then six yellow bananas, then twelve green pears. 'The pattern is doubling!' Max chirped, delighted by the order of it all. Suddenly, a customer arrived carrying a heavy bag of coins worth £4.50. Max needed to calculate the change from a £10 note. He quickly deduced that the difference was £5.50. He loves how numbers fit together like pieces of a complex wooden puzzle. Whether he is solving a tricky word analogy or balancing a till, Max believes that every problem has a logical solution just waiting to be discovered. He smiled at his friend Pip the caterpillar, who was busy reading a book nearby. 'Life is just one big, beautiful equation,' Max whispered happily.

*Word bank: analogy · sequence · deduce · logical · pattern · calculate*

**1. Identify two items that Max was using to organise his market stall. (2 marks)**

**2. What is the next number in Max's fruit sequence (3, 6, 12, ...)? Explain how you found your answer. (2 marks)**

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**3. Why does Max feel happy when he is working at his market stall? (2 marks)**

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**4. Based on the text, how would you describe Max's personality? Use evidence from the passage to support your answer. (3 marks)**

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**5. Max says, 'Life is just one big, beautiful equation.' Do you agree with this statement? Justify your opinion with an example. (3 marks)**

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**Draw:** Draw Max the monkey at his market stall, showing his fruit arranged in a pattern and his coins neatly organised.



*Extension challenge: Max has created a new word analogy: 'Book is to Librarian as Compass is to Explorer.' Create three of your own analogies using different professions and their tools. Then, explain why your analogies are logical.*