

Max's Masterclass: Solving Word Problems

Don't just calculate, investigate! Use Max the Monkey's 4-step plan to unlock the secret of any word problem.

- **Step 1: Read the problem carefully and underline the important numbers and the specific question you need to answer.**
- **Step 2: Decide on the operation. Look for keywords like 'total' (addition), 'difference' (subtraction), 'each' (multiplication), or 'share' (division).**
- **Step 3: Check your units! If you are working with money, ensure you use the £ symbol and two decimal places for pence (e.g., £2.50).**
- **Step 4: Use the inverse operation to check your answer. If you added to solve it, try subtracting to see if you get back to the start.**
- **Step 5: Always write your final answer in a full sentence to show you have solved the problem completely.**

Did you know? Did you know? In the 16th century, mathematicians started using the symbols '+' and '-' to save time when writing out long problems. Before that, they had to write out the words 'plus' and 'minus' every single time!

Key vocabulary: Calculation · Operation · Reasoning · Difference · Total · Inverse · Estimate