

Max's Market Calculations

Learning objective: To understand, identify, and use subordinate clauses to add extra detail to sentences.

Read the text carefully. A subordinate clause adds extra information to a sentence but cannot stand alone as a complete sentence. It usually begins with a subordinating conjunction like 'although', 'because', 'while', or 'since'. Complete the questions below to test your understanding.

Max the monkey stood at the bustling market stall, where he carefully examined the price tags. Because Max loved maths puzzles, he decided to calculate the total cost of his fruit. While the sun shone brightly overhead, he picked up three crisp apples that cost £1.20 in total. He then selected a bunch of bananas, which were priced at £0.85, and placed them into his woven basket. Although the stall owner was busy serving other customers, Max waited patiently for his turn. Since he had saved his pocket money all week, he felt confident that he had enough to pay. Max smiled as he handed over his coins, because he knew his calculation was correct. Even though the market was noisy, he enjoyed the challenge of balancing his budget. He realised that maths made shopping much more exciting, provided that you paid close attention to the prices. Max skipped home happily, feeling proud of his clever work.

Word bank: Subordinate · Conjunction · Clause · Information · Detail

1. Identify two subordinate clauses from the text that start with the word 'because'. (2 marks)

2. How much money did Max spend on the apples and the bananas combined? (2 marks)

3. Why do you think Max felt 'confident' when he approached the stall owner? (2 marks)

4. What does the phrase 'balanced his budget' suggest about how Max managed his money? (2 marks)

5. Do you think Max enjoys maths? Justify your answer using evidence from the passage. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw Max the monkey at the market stall. Include a price sign for the apples and a price sign for the bananas. Add a speech bubble showing Max thinking about a maths equation.



Extension challenge: Write three original sentences about your own shopping trip. Each sentence must contain a main clause and a subordinate clause. For a greater challenge, try starting one of your sentences with the subordinate clause, followed by a comma and the main clause.