

Max's Magnificent Maths and Meaning Challenge

Learning objective: To develop verbal reasoning skills by identifying patterns in word relationships, analogies, and logical linguistic sequences.

Max the monkey loves finding patterns in everything! Use your linguistic logic to solve these verbal reasoning puzzles. Think carefully about the connections between words, their meanings, and their structures.

N/A

Word bank: Opposite · Synonym · Categorisation · Analogy · Sequence · Relationship

1. Max has noticed a pattern: 'Hot is to Cold as Bright is to Dim.' Using this analogy format, complete the following: 'Giant is to Tiny as Swift is to...' (1 mark)

2. Look at this sequence of words: Apple, Banana, Cherry, Date. Explain the logic behind this sequence and suggest one more word that fits the pattern. Justify your choice. (3 marks)

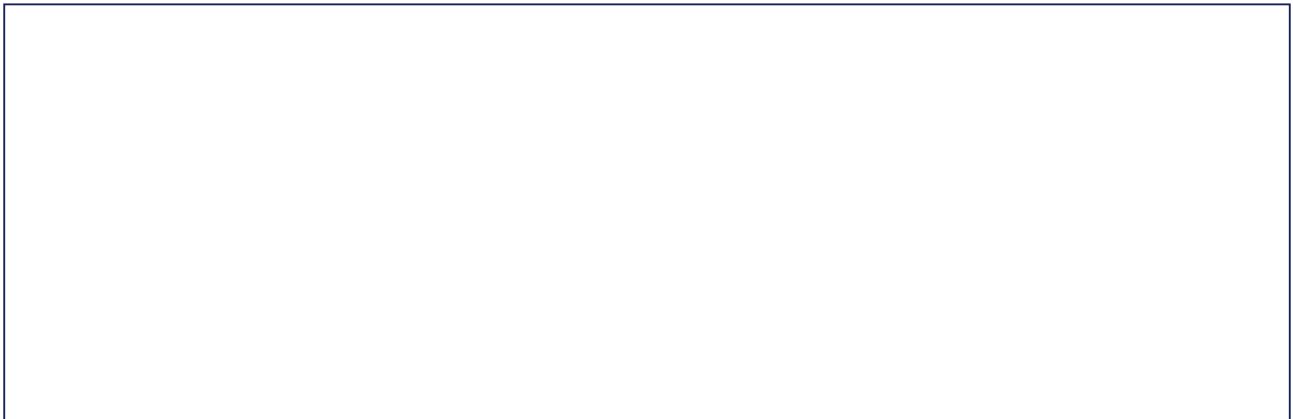
3. If the word 'SPARK' is written as 'TQBSL' in a secret code, how would you write the word 'JUMP' using the same logic? Explain the rule you discovered. (3 marks)

4. Compare and contrast the words 'Ancient' and 'Antique'. Are they synonyms or antonyms? Explain why these words might be used differently when describing historical objects. (4 marks)

5. Max is buying fruit for a picnic. Oranges cost 45p each and pears cost 30p each. If he buys three oranges and two pears, he spends £1.95. If he had £5.00, how much change would he receive? Show your reasoning. (3 marks)

6. What might happen if we did not have synonyms in the English language? Justify your answer by discussing how writing might change if every object or action had only one possible word to describe it. (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'Word Tree' for Max. On the roots, write a category (e.g., 'Fruit'). On the branches, draw and label five items that belong to that category, and add two 'synonym leaves' for each item.



Extension challenge: Create your own verbal reasoning puzzle for a partner. Your puzzle must include a pattern involving either letters, numbers, or word relationships. Write a brief 'answer key' on the back of your paper to explain the logic behind your puzzle.