

Max's Magnificent Market Maths

Learning objective: To develop verbal reasoning skills by identifying patterns, finding synonyms, and interpreting logical sequences in a narrative context.

Read the story carefully. Max the monkey is using his analytical skills to solve puzzles at the village market. Answer the questions below using evidence from the text to support your ideas.

Max the monkey stood at the bustling village market, tapping his chin thoughtfully. He wasn't just there to buy fruit; he was hunting for patterns. Max noticed that the price of apples followed a clever sequence: 50p, £1.00, £1.50, and £2.00. Beside the apples, a stall owner had arranged her jams in a specific order: Strawberry, Apricot, Blueberry, and finally, Cherry. Max quickly realised the pattern was alphabetical. He loved these mental puzzles!

'Look at this, Kit!' Max chirped to his friend, the fox. 'If the baker sells a loaf for £1.20 and a bun for 60p, the cost of the bun is exactly half the loaf.' Kit nodded, impressed by Max's quick deduction. Max enjoyed how words and numbers worked together like a giant, rhythmic dance. Whether he was finding a synonym for a grumpy merchant or solving the riddle of the market prices, Max felt like a detective of logic. Every stall held a new secret waiting to be uncovered, and for Max, the market was the ultimate classroom.

Word bank: deduction · logic · sequence · synonym · pattern

1. Identify the two patterns Max observed at the market stalls. (2 marks)

2. What is the cost of two buns, according to the baker's pricing mentioned in the text? (2 marks)

3. Why does the author describe Max as a 'detective of logic'? (2 marks)

4. What does the word 'bustling' suggest about the atmosphere of the market? (2 marks)

5. Do you think Max enjoys visiting the market more than a standard classroom? Use evidence from the text to justify your answer. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene at the market showing Max the monkey holding a notepad, observing a stall with labels that follow a clear pattern, such as shapes or colours.



Extension challenge: Create your own sequence puzzle for a friend using items you might find in a school bag. Can you include a pattern based on the price of items?