

Max's Mathematical Mission: Mastering Word Problems

Don't panic—solve it like a monkey! Break the problem down, spot the clues, and crack the code!

■ **Step 1: Read the problem twice to understand the story. Always look for key vocabulary like 'altogether' (addition) or 'remaining' (subtraction).**

■ **Step 2: Identify the numbers you need. Sometimes word problems include extra information meant to distract you—ignore anything that doesn't help you solve the calculation.**

■ **Step 3: Decide on your operation. If you are sharing an amount of money, such as £15.50, between friends, you will likely need to use division.**

■ **Step 4: Make an estimate. Before you calculate, have a guess at what the answer might be to check if your final result is sensible.**

■ **Step 5: Solve and check. Perform your calculation carefully and then re-read the question to ensure your answer makes sense in the context of the story.**

Did you know? Did you know that word problems are like mini-detective mysteries? Max the monkey loves them because every problem contains hidden clues. By underlining the numbers and circling the key words, you can turn a paragraph of text into a simple calculation that is much easier to solve!

Key vocabulary: Operation · Difference · Product · Quotient · Estimate · Total · Calculate