

Max's Market Mystery: A Verbal Reasoning Challenge

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

Read the following passage about Max the monkey's trip to the market. Use your analytical skills to solve the puzzles below. Max loves to find the logic behind every word!

Max the monkey visited the local market to buy fruit for his friends. He noticed that the stalls were organised with great care. He saw a row of apples, then pears, then apples, then pears. Max knew this was a pattern. Next, he looked at the prices. A bunch of bananas cost £1.50, and a bag of oranges cost £3.00. Max noticed the relationship: the oranges cost exactly double the price of the bananas. He sat down with his notebook to work out the next steps of his shopping list using his favourite logic puzzles.

Word bank: Ratio · Pattern · Sequence · Relationship · Logic · Analogy

1. If 'Apple' is to 'Fruit' as 'Carrot' is to 'Vegetable', what is the relationship being shown here? Explain how you know. (2 marks)

2. Max sees a sequence: 2, 4, 8, 16... What is the next number in this sequence and what is the rule? (2 marks)

3. Max finds a group of words: 'Happy', 'Cheerful', 'Joyful'. Find a word that does not fit with the others: 'Sad', 'Merry', 'Jolly', 'Glad'. Explain your choice. (2 marks)

4. If a bunch of grapes costs £2.20, and the price of a melon is three times that amount, how much does the melon cost? Show your working. (2 marks)

5. Complete the analogy: 'Leaf is to Tree as Feather is to...' (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a fruit stall at the market using a repeating pattern of at least three different types of fruit.



Extension challenge: Create your own verbal reasoning question for a friend. Use a 'word sequence' (e.g., Cat, Kitten, Dog, Puppy) and ask them to identify the relationship between the pairs.