

Max's Magnificent Market Maths

Learning objective: To identify and categorise nouns and verbs within a narrative text, whilst developing analytical comprehension skills.

Read the passage below carefully. Use your knowledge of word classes to identify the nouns (people, places, or things) and verbs (actions or states of being). Answer the questions in full, detailed sentences.

Max the monkey stood amidst the bustling village market, his eyes darting between stacks of shimmering fruit. He clutched a leather satchel containing exactly £15.20, designated for the weekly provisions. The air hummed with the rhythmic chatter of vendors; a baker kneaded dough with expert precision, while a florist arranged fragrant lilies into a vibrant bouquet. Max observed a merchant weighing heavy, golden potatoes on a rusted iron scale. He noted that the act of trading required immense focus. Nearby, a young girl giggled as she chased a runaway kite that danced across the azure sky. Max realised that every transaction was a puzzle waiting to be deciphered. He decided to purchase a bag of crisp apples for £3.50. As he walked, he reflected on the symphony of activity surrounding him. The market functioned like a complex machine, where every person contributed to the collective harmony of the community. Max carefully recorded his spending, satisfied that his logic remained as sharp as his appetite for discovery.

Word bank: abstract noun · collective noun · dynamic verb · stative verb · adverbial · tensed

1. Identify two concrete nouns and one collective noun used by the author in the passage. (2 marks)

2. Find and copy a sentence from the text that contains both a dynamic verb and a stative verb. (2 marks)

3. Explain why Max considers the market to be a 'complex machine'. Refer to the text in your justification. (3 marks)

4. What might happen if the merchant stopped weighing the potatoes? Use evidence from the text to support your prediction. (3 marks)

5. Do you think Max enjoys his role as a mathematician? Justify your answer using examples of his behaviour. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a detailed scene of the market described in the passage, focusing on Max holding his leather satchel while observing the baker and the florist. Ensure the market stalls look busy and organised.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph describing a new stall at the market. You must include at least three abstract nouns (e.g., happiness, patience, curiosity) and four dynamic verbs to describe the action taking place.