

Max's Magnificent Market Maths and Grammar

Learning objective: To identify, classify, and manipulate nouns and verbs to enhance descriptive writing.

Read the passage below about Max the monkey's bustling marketplace. Use the word bank to help you identify the parts of speech. Answer the questions thoroughly, using precise grammatical terminology.

Max the monkey scampered through the bustling marketplace, his eyes darting between the colourful displays. He approached a wooden stall piled high with tropical fruit. The merchant, a wise old tortoise, balanced a basket of mangoes on his shell. Max negotiated for the best price, clutching his £5 note tightly. He chattered excitedly as he calculated the cost of his snack. Above them, the sun cast a gleaming light over the village square, making the entire scene look truly magnificent.

Word bank: scampered · stall · gleaming · negotiated · fruit · chattered · magnificent · currency · balanced

1. Identify two abstract nouns and two concrete nouns from the passage. Explain the difference between these two types of nouns. (4 marks)

2. Locate three verbs in the past tense. Explain why the author chose to use past tense verbs rather than present tense for this narrative. (3 marks)

3. Max says, 'I balanced the fruit.' Is 'balanced' acting as a verb or an adjective here? Justify your answer by explaining its function in the sentence. (2 marks)

4. Compare and contrast the verbs 'scampered' and 'walked'. Why might an author choose 'scampered' to describe Max's movement? (3 marks)

5. Rewrite the final sentence of the passage: 'Above them, the sun cast a gleaming light over the village square, making the entire scene look truly magnificent.' Replace the verb 'cast' and the adjective 'magnificent' with more sophisticated synonyms to change the tone of the sentence. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a detailed scene of Max the monkey at the marketplace. Label three concrete nouns and two verbs showing action within your illustration.



Extension challenge: What might happen if the nouns and verbs in the English language were suddenly swapped? Write a short, creative paragraph exploring a world where things (nouns) perform actions (verbs) and actions become physical objects. Use at least five nouns and five verbs correctly.