

Max's Magnificent Market Maths

Learning objective: To understand and use parenthesis (brackets, dashes, or commas) to add extra information to a sentence.

Read the text carefully. Pay close attention to the punctuation marks—brackets, dashes, and commas—that provide additional information. Answer the questions in full sentences, ensuring you demonstrate your understanding of parenthesis.

Max, a highly enthusiastic monkey who loves solving puzzles, visited the local fruit market to purchase ingredients for a smoothie. He needed to buy several items—bananas, strawberries, and blueberries—to create the perfect drink. The market stall, which was run by a very friendly farmer, was bustling with activity. Max checked his shopping list (a crumpled piece of paper) to ensure he stayed within his budget of £10.00. He carefully selected a bunch of ripe, yellow bananas—his favourite fruit—and placed them in his basket. As he worked, Max calculated the cost of each item, noting that the total so far was £4.50. Suddenly, he remembered he needed honey, a sweet addition to his recipe. He spotted the jars on a high shelf (just out of reach) and asked the farmer for help. With his basket full and his maths complete, Max felt triumphant. He had managed to spend exactly £8.75, leaving him with £1.25 for a small treat. His clever strategy—using a list and mental maths—had ensured a successful trip to the market.

Word bank: parenthesis · additional · clarify · dashes · brackets · information

1. Identify two items that Max bought at the market. Why does the author use dashes around the phrase 'bananas, strawberries, and blueberries'? (2 marks)

2. What was the total amount Max spent at the market? Quote the part of the text that shows his remaining change using parenthesis. (2 marks)

3. Infer why Max needed to use a shopping list during his trip. What does this suggest about his personality? (2 marks)

4. Explain why the author included the phrase '(just out of reach)' in brackets. How would the sentence change if this information were removed? (2 marks)

5. Do you think Max's approach to shopping is effective? Justify your answer by referring to his mathematical planning and his use of a list. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene of Max the monkey at the market stall. Include a speech bubble showing Max calculating his total and label three items he is buying using brackets to add extra detail about their colour or size.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph about your own favourite hobby. You must include at least two examples of parenthesis: one using brackets and one using a pair of dashes. Explain why you chose those specific places to add extra information.