

Max's Market Stall: The Decimal Dilemma

Learning objective: To read, write, order and compare numbers with up to three decimal places and solve problems involving money.

Max the monkey is helping at the local community market. He has labelled his produce with prices, but some of his decimal signs have gone missing or are in the wrong place! Your task is to act as the Market Auditor. Review Max's calculations and the price list below. Correct the errors, order the items by price, and use your reasoning skills to justify why Max's maths might be causing confusion.

Word bank: thousandths · hundredths · tenths · decimal point · place value · equivalent · greater than · less than

1. Max has priced his organic apples at £0.85 per bag and his pears at £0.850 per bag. Explain why these two prices are mathematically equivalent. Use the term 'place value' in your answer. (2 marks)

2. Max accidentally wrote the price of a punnet of strawberries as £3.15, but then he wrote £31.5. Justify why these two numbers are not the same value and what impact this would have on a customer's change. (2 marks)

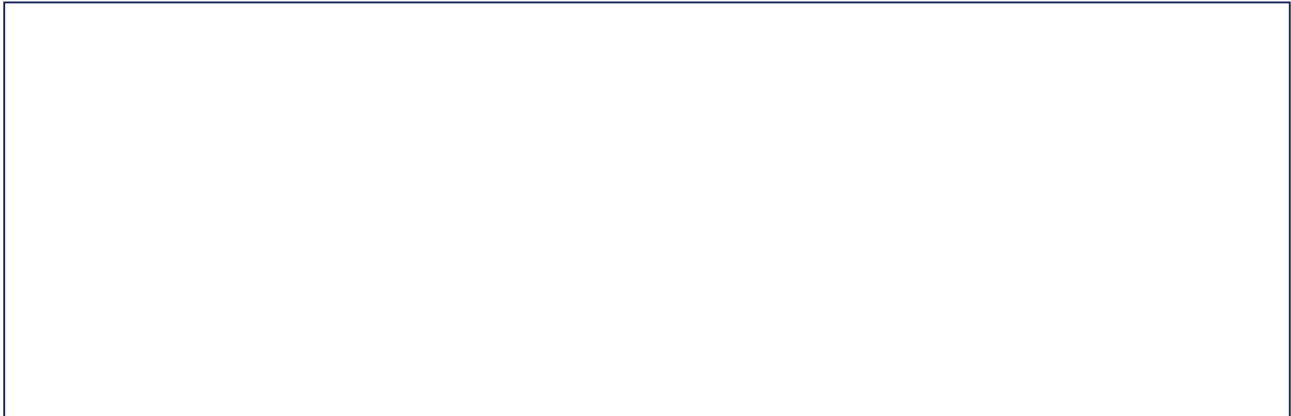
3. Order the following prices from smallest to largest: £4.09, £4.90, £4.009, and £4.19. (2 marks)

4. If a punnet of blueberries costs £2.45, how much would 10 punnets cost? Write your answer in pounds and pence. (1 mark)

5. Max wants to sell a basket of mixed fruit for exactly £10.00. He has already added items worth £6.75 and £2.30. How much more value does he need to add to reach his goal? Show your working. (2 marks)

6. What might happen if Max consistently confuses the tenths column with the hundredths column when pricing his goods? Explain the potential consequences for his stall's profit. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a creative 'Decimal Price Tag' for an imaginary fruit. The tag must show the price in both words (e.g., three pounds and twenty pence) and digits (£3.20). Include a small illustration of Max the monkey peeking out from behind the fruit.



Extension challenge: Design your own market stall list with five items. Include at least two items priced with three decimal places (e.g., £1.295). Write a challenge question for a partner to solve, asking them to calculate the total cost of purchasing one of each item, rounding their final answer to the nearest penny.