

Max's Market Challenge: The Subtraction Puzzle

Learning objective: To solve multi-step subtraction problems involving money, including finding change and calculating the difference between totals.

Max the monkey is helping at the local community market. He has a set of budget constraints and needs you to calculate the totals. For each question, show your formal written method (column subtraction) to find the answer. Remember to align your decimal points correctly and include the £ symbol in your final answer.

Word bank: Difference · Exchange · Decrease · Column subtraction · Decimal point · Remainder · Budget · Calculation

1. Max has £25.00. He buys a basket of organic apples for £6.75 and a jar of local honey for £4.30. How much money does Max have remaining? Show your working out. (3 marks)

2. A decorative rug costs £42.50. A smaller woven mat costs £18.75. Calculate the difference in price between the two items. Justify your method for checking your answer. (3 marks)

3. The market stall had £100.00 in the cash box at the start of the day. By lunchtime, they had spent £34.20 on restocking supplies and £12.50 on snacks for the volunteers. What is the new total in the cash box? (3 marks)

4. Explain why it is vital to keep the decimal point in the same column when subtracting amounts of money. (2 marks)

5. Compare and contrast the process of subtracting £15.00 - £7.25 with the process of subtracting 1500 - 725. What do you notice about the digits? (3 marks)

6. What might happen if a shopkeeper forgot to 'exchange' (borrow) from the next column during a complex subtraction? Provide an example calculation to prove your point. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a busy market stall scene with Max the monkey holding a sign that shows a subtraction equation involving three different items priced between £1.00 and £50.00.



Extension challenge: Design your own 'Market Challenge' problem for a partner. Your problem must involve at least three items and require a two-step calculation (e.g., adding two items together first, then subtracting that total from a starting budget). Write a brief 'answer key' for your partner to check their work later.