

The Great Library Puzzle

Learning objective: To develop verbal reasoning skills by identifying patterns, synonyms, and logical connections within a text.

Read the passage carefully. Use the clues hidden in the text to help you answer the questions. Look for patterns in the words and think about how they relate to one another.

Max the monkey sat in the centre of the Great Library, surrounded by stacks of ancient scrolls. He loved a challenge, and today's puzzle was the trickiest yet. He had to sort a pile of mysterious word cards. The task was simple to explain but difficult to master: find the relationship between the pairs. For example, if a card said 'hot' and 'cold', Max knew these were antonyms. If a card said 'swift' and 'fast', they were synonyms. Max noticed that some cards required more logic. He picked up a card labelled 'Lion is to Pride as Bee is to...'. He scratched his head, thinking about his friend, Bea the honeybee. He remembered that a group of lions is called a pride, so a group of bees must be a swarm. Max felt a glow of satisfaction as he placed the final card into the correct box. Verbal reasoning wasn't just about knowing words; it was about understanding how they danced together in patterns. With a wide grin, he realised that language was the most exciting puzzle of all.

Word bank: synonym · antonym · logic · analogy · deduction · pattern

1. According to the text, what is the difference between a synonym and an antonym? (2 marks)

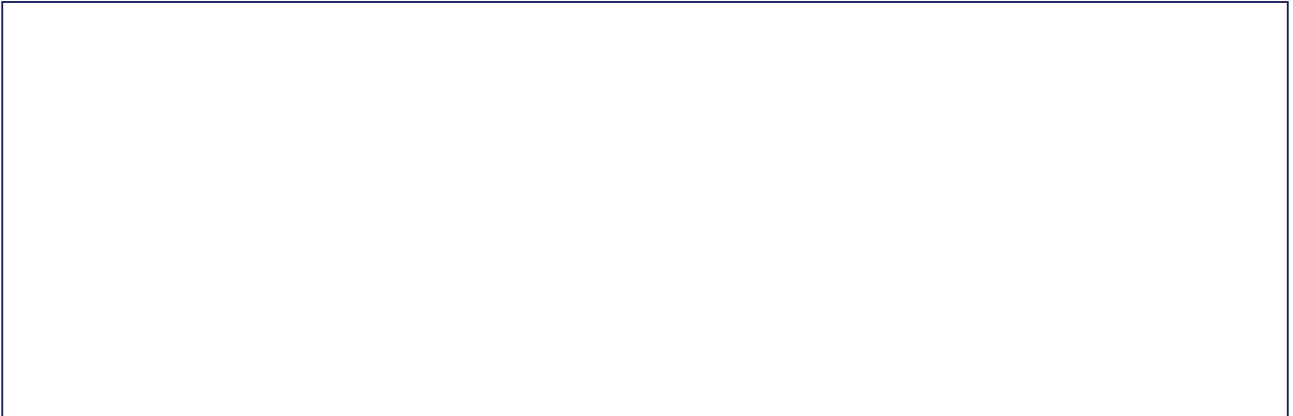
2. What specific example does Max use to solve the 'group' puzzle? (1 mark)

3. Why does the author describe language as a 'dance' in the final paragraph? (2 marks)

4. Based on the passage, why might someone who enjoys maths also enjoy verbal reasoning? (2 marks)

5. Do you think Max enjoys his work in the library? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw Max the monkey sitting in a library filled with floating word cards. Some cards have synonyms on them, while others show pictures of animals grouped together.



Extension challenge: Create your own 'analogy' card using the format: [Word A] is to [Word B] as [Word C] is to [Word D]. For example: 'Foot is to Shoe as Hand is to Glove'. Can you make three more?