Max’s Maths Shop: A Word Puzzle Challenge

Learning objective: To develop verbal reasoning skills by identifying patterns, synonyms, and logical word associations.

Max the monkey has opened a shop to help his friends. Read the passage carefully and use your reasoning skills to solve the puzzles below. Remember to check your spelling!

Max the monkey is very busy in his shop. He loves to sort items into groups. Today, he is selling fruit and stationery. He has apples, bananas, and pears in one basket. In another, he has pencils, rubbers, and rulers. Max says, 'If you buy an item that costs £2 and get a £1 discount, you only pay £1!' Max wants to make sure everyone gets a fair price. He calls his shop the 'Maths Market' because he loves to calculate the total cost of every basket.

Word bank: expensive · bargain · calculate · total · item · discount

1. Find a word in the passage that is a synonym for 'cheap' or 'good value'. (1 mark)

2. Max wants to group his shop items. Which category does 'rubber' belong to: Fruit or Stationery? (1 mark)

3. Look at the pattern: Apple is to Fruit as Pencil is to... (1 mark)

4. If an item costs £5 and Max gives a £2 discount, how much does the customer pay? Show your working. (2 marks)

5. Find the word in the passage that means 'to work out a number'. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the monkey standing behind his shop counter. Include a sign that shows the price of an apple as £1 and a ruler as £2.

Extension challenge: Can you think of three other items that would fit into Max's 'Stationery' category? Write them down and explain why they belong there.