Max’s Masterclass: Conquering Word Problems

Don't just calculate—investigate! Let Max the monkey help you crack the code to any word problem.

■ **Identify the Operation: Always hunt for keywords. 'Total' or 'sum' usually means addition, while 'difference' or 'how many more' suggests subtraction.**

■ **The Multi-Step Rule: If a problem mentions buying several items and receiving change from a £10 or £20 note, remember to calculate the total cost first before finding the difference.**

■ **Check the Units: Ensure all measurements are consistent. If the problem gives you metres and centimetres, convert them to the same unit before performing your calculation.**

■ **Estimate First: Before working out the exact answer, round your numbers to the nearest 10 or 100 to check if your final answer is sensible.**

■ **Use the Inverse: Once you have your answer, check your work by using the inverse operation. If you added to solve it, subtract to check it!**

Did you know? Did you know that the word 'calculate' comes from the Latin word 'calculus', which means 'pebble'? Long ago, people used small stones to help them count their livestock and trade goods in the marketplace!

Key vocabulary: multi-step · operation · inverse · remainder · calculate · estimate · equivalent · total