Max’s Masterclass: Solving Word Problems

Read the problem, spot the clues, and solve the puzzle!

■ Step 1: Read the problem carefully. Underline the important numbers and look for key words like 'sum', 'how many more', or 'shared between'.

■ Step 2: Decide on the operation. If the total is getting bigger, you might need addition or multiplication. If you are finding a difference or splitting things up, look at subtraction or division.

■ Step 3: Check the units. If the question uses money, make sure your answer includes the £ sign and two decimal places for pence (e.g., £2.50).

■ Step 4: Draw a quick sketch. Max the monkey loves drawing bar models to show how numbers fit together. It helps to see the problem visually!

■ Step 5: Calculate and check. Once you have your answer, read the question again to ensure your result makes sense in the real world.

Did you know? Did you know? The word 'calculate' comes from the Latin word 'calculus', which means 'small stone'. In ancient times, people used pebbles to help them count and solve tricky maths problems!

Key vocabulary: Operation · Total · Difference · Calculate · Each · Altogether · Remaining