

# Max's Market Maths Mystery

*Learning objective: To understand and represent the place value of 4-digit numbers and solve problems involving money.*

Read the story below carefully. Use your knowledge of thousands, hundreds, tens, and ones to help Max solve his market stall puzzles. Write your answers clearly in the spaces provided.

Max the monkey was helping at the community market today. He loves organising things into neat rows! He had a collection of wooden puzzles to sell. Max had 3,425 puzzle pieces in his largest box. He told the customers, 'This number has 3 thousands, 4 hundreds, 2 tens, and 5 ones!' Later, a friendly farmer came by to buy some supplies. The farmer bought a basket of apples for £2.50 and a bag of flour for £1.25. Max had to quickly work out the total price. 'That will be £3.75,' Max chirped. He then looked at his remaining stock. He had 1,008 stickers left to sell. He reminded himself that the zero in the hundreds column and the zero in the tens column were very important for keeping the place value correct.

*Word bank: place value · thousands · hundreds · tens · ones · digit · total*

**1. In the number 3,425, what is the value of the digit 4? Explain how you know. (2 marks)**

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**2. Max sold apples for £2.50 and flour for £1.25. What was the total cost of these two items? (2 marks)**

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**3. Max has 1,008 stickers. Write this number in words. (1 mark)**

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**4. If Max finds 100 more stickers, what will his new total be? Show your working out. (2 marks)**

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5. Why is it important to include the zeros in the number 1,008? What would happen if we removed them? (2 marks)

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**Draw:** Draw a place value grid showing the number 3,425 using symbols for thousands, hundreds, tens, and ones.

*Extension challenge: Max finds a box of 5,000 spare puzzle pieces. If he adds these to his original 3,425 pieces, what is his new total? Can you write this number in expanded form (e.g.,  $8,000 + 400 + 20 + 5$ )?*