

Max's Market Maths: Mastering Subtraction

Learning objective: To subtract amounts of money using columnar subtraction and mental methods, including exchanging.

Max the monkey is helping at the local market stall! Use your subtraction skills to help him calculate the change for his customers. Remember to line up your decimal points and exchange if the digit in the top number is smaller than the bottom number.

Max is busy at the fruit stall. A basket of apples costs £4.50. A customer hands Max a £10.00 note. Max needs to find the difference to give the correct change. Later, a customer buys a bunch of bananas for £2.75 and pays with a £5.00 note. Max knows that if he cannot subtract a digit, he must exchange from the next column to the left!

Word bank: difference · column subtraction · exchange · decimal point · total · remaining

1. Max has a £10.00 note. A customer spends £3.20. How much change does Max owe the customer? Show your working. (2 marks)

2. A punnet of strawberries costs £2.85. If a customer pays with a £5.00 note, how much change should they receive? (2 marks)

3. Explain why we must line up the decimal points when subtracting money. (2 marks)

4. Max had £8.40 in his till. He spent £2.60 on a new wooden crate for his oranges. How much money does he have left? (2 marks)

5. If a melon costs £3.15 and a customer gives Max £5.00, what is the difference between these two amounts? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the monkey standing behind a market stall filled with fruit, holding a sign that shows the calculation $£10.00 - £4.50 = £5.50$.



Extension challenge: Max finds a mystery bag of fruit that costs £6.35. If a customer pays with a £20.00 note, how much change will Max give? Can you write a subtraction word problem for a friend to solve using the amounts £15.00 and £7.45?