

# Max's Market Maths: Subtraction Challenges

*Learning objective: To subtract numbers with up to 4 digits, including using formal written methods (column subtraction).*

Read the scenarios involving Max the monkey as he visits the local market. Show your working out clearly using column subtraction. Remember to exchange (or 'borrow') from the next column if the top digit is smaller than the bottom digit.

Max the monkey is helping his friends at the market. He loves to solve puzzles using maths! Today, he is checking the inventory to see how many items are left after sales. Max knows that to find out how many items remain, he must subtract the number sold from the original total.

*Word bank: column subtraction · exchange · difference · total · digit · place value*

**1. The apple stall started the day with 2,450 red apples. By lunchtime, they had sold 1,235 apples. How many apples are left for the afternoon? (2 marks)**

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**2. A box of mixed nuts contained 3,672 grams. Max ate 485 grams while waiting for his friends. What is the mass of the nuts remaining in the box? (2 marks)**

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**3. Pip the caterpillar bought a basket of berries for £8.50. She paid with a £20.00 note. How much change did she receive? (2 marks)**

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**4. Leo the lion was selling poetry books. He had 1,500 pages of paper ready to use. He used 764 pages to write his poems. How many pages does he have left? (2 marks)**

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**5. Explain why it is important to line up the digits in their correct place value columns when subtracting numbers like 4,002 and 1,567. (2 marks)**

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**Draw:** Draw a picture of Max the monkey standing at a market stall with different items for sale, each with a price tag on them.



*Extension challenge: Max has a secret number. If you subtract 1,249 from it, you get 3,751. What is Max's secret number? Show your method for finding the answer.*