

Year 4 English Assessment: The Conjunction Challenge

Learning objective: To demonstrate the ability to use, identify, and categorise coordinating and subordinating conjunctions to enhance sentence structure.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of conjunctions to join clauses and improve the flow of your writing. Ensure your spelling and punctuation are accurate.

Max the monkey sat in the ancient oak tree. He was busy calculating the number of acorns he had collected. He noticed that his friend, Kit the fox, was approaching with a map. They needed to find the hidden treasure before the sun set.

Word bank: although · because · since · yet · while · but · so · unless · if · or

1. Identify the two conjunctions hidden in this sentence: 'Max wanted to climb higher, but he felt tired, so he stopped to rest.' (2 marks)

2. Combine these two simple sentences into one complex sentence using the subordinating conjunction 'because': 'Ellie the elephant remembered the path. The map was very detailed.' (2 marks)

3. Explain why a writer might choose to use the conjunction 'although' at the beginning of a sentence rather than in the middle. Provide an example to support your answer. (3 marks)

4. Rewrite the following passage by using at least two different conjunctions to improve the flow: 'Zara painted a sunset. She used bright colours. She wanted to capture the beauty of the horizon.' (4 marks)

5. Compare and contrast the function of the conjunction 'and' with the conjunction 'unless'. Justify your answer with an example sentence for each. (4 marks)

6. Look at this sentence: 'Nova looked at the stars while the wind blew softly.' What might happen to the meaning of the sentence if you replaced 'while' with 'if'? Explain the change in tone and logic. (5 marks)

7. Write a short paragraph (3-5 sentences) describing an adventure involving Pip the caterpillar. You must use at least four different conjunctions from the word bank to connect your ideas effectively. (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene where Pip the caterpillar and Nova the owl are working together on a project. Include a speech bubble for each character that contains a sentence using a subordinating conjunction.

Extension challenge: Total: /25. Challenge: Rewrite a favourite story opening of your own, replacing all simple sentences with complex sentences that utilise at least five different subordinating conjunctions to create suspense.