Class 4 English Assessment: Subordinate Clauses and Complex Sentences

Learning objective: To identify, use, and punctuate subordinate clauses within complex sentences.

Read each question carefully. Ensure your sentences are punctuated correctly and use a variety of subordinating conjunctions.

Max the monkey sat in the ancient oak tree. He was hungry. He spotted a bunch of bananas on the forest floor. He waited patiently. The sun began to set behind the hills. He climbed down to enjoy his snack.

Word bank: although · because · since · until · unless · while · whereas · if

1. Identify the subordinate clause in this sentence: 'Max waited patiently until the sun began to set.' Write it below. (1 mark)

2. Add a subordinate clause to this main clause: 'The elephant walked slowly...' (Remember to use a subordinating conjunction). (2 marks)

3. Circle the subordinating conjunction in this sentence: 'Pip the caterpillar read his book because he wanted to learn new words.' Then, explain why the clause starting with 'because' is subordinate. (3 marks)

4. Rewrite the two simple sentences below as one complex sentence using a subordinating conjunction: 'Nova looked through her telescope. She wanted to find the North Star.' (3 marks)

5. Explain the difference between a main clause and a subordinate clause. Give one example of each. (4 marks)

6. Re-order the passage provided at the start of the paper. Combine the sentences to create a short, flowing paragraph using at least three different subordinating conjunctions. Ensure your punctuation is accurate. (7 marks)

7. If a subordinate clause starts a sentence, what punctuation mark must you use to separate it from the main clause? Provide an example. (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the monkey sharing his bananas with his friend, Pip the caterpillar. Label your picture with one sentence that contains a subordinate clause.

Extension challenge: Total: /25