

Adventures with Pip: Mastering Subordinate Clauses

Learning objective: To identify and use subordinate clauses to add extra information to sentences.

Read the story about Pip the bookworm caterpillar. A subordinate clause is a part of a sentence that adds extra detail but does not make sense on its own. It usually starts with a subordinating conjunction like 'because', 'although', 'if', or 'when'. Complete the questions below to show your understanding.

Pip the caterpillar loves to read in the Great Oak Library. When the sun begins to set, Pip finds a cosy leaf to curl up on. Although the library is very quiet, Pip likes to read his favourite poems out loud. He finishes his book quickly because the story is so exciting. If Pip finds a particularly interesting word, he writes it down in his tiny notebook. While he dreams of distant lands, he knows that another adventure is waiting for him in the next chapter.

Word bank: because · although · when · if · while · since

1. Find and copy one subordinate clause from the passage that starts with the word 'When'. (1 mark)

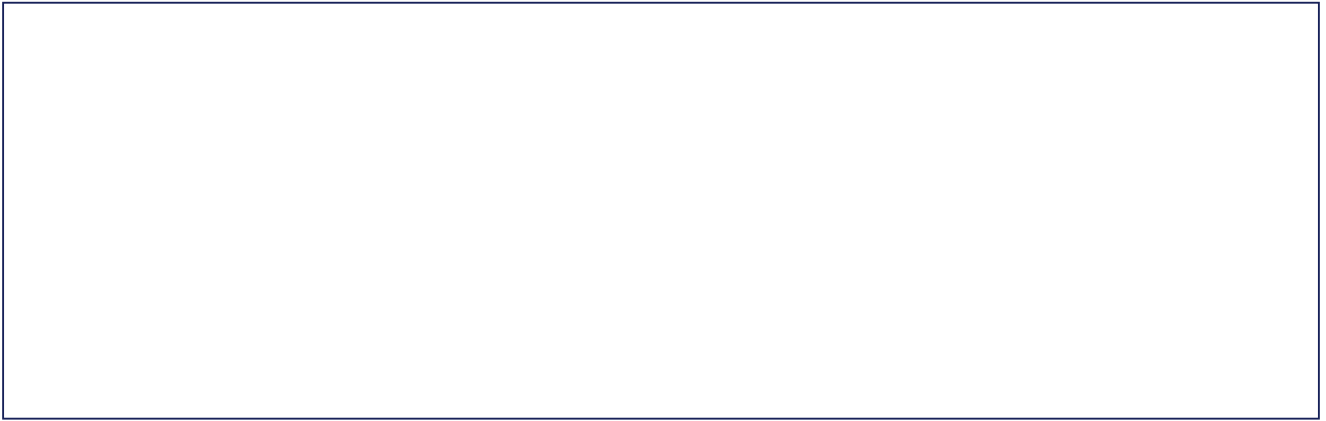
2. In the sentence 'He finishes his book quickly because the story is so exciting', which part is the subordinate clause? (1 mark)

3. Why does the subordinate clause 'although the library is very quiet' not make sense on its own? Explain your answer. (2 marks)

4. Add a subordinate clause to this main clause: 'Pip crawled onto the branch...' (2 marks)

5. Combine these two sentences into one sentence using a subordinating conjunction: 'Pip felt happy. He found a new book.' (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Pip the caterpillar curled up on a leaf inside a library, surrounded by stacks of books and a small notebook.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph about an adventure Pip might have. Try to use at least three different subordinate clauses in your writing.