

Mastering Subordinate Clauses with Pip the Bookworm

Learning objective: To identify and use subordinate clauses to add detail and complexity to sentences.

Read the story below about Pip's library adventure. A subordinate clause adds extra information to a sentence but cannot stand alone. It usually begins with a subordinating conjunction like 'although', 'because', 'while', 'if', or 'since'. Complete the questions to show what you have learned.

Pip the bookworm was very excited because the Great Library had just received a fresh delivery of scrolls. Although the shelves were already packed to the brim, Pip managed to squeeze in between two dusty encyclopaedias. While he carefully turned a page, he noticed a mysterious golden bookmark tucked inside. He decided that he would read the entire book if he could finish his snacks first. Since he had a very busy afternoon planned, he hurried through his reading.

Word bank: although · because · while · if · since · unless · whenever

1. Identify the subordinate clause in this sentence: 'Pip the bookworm was very excited because the Great Library had just received a fresh delivery of scrolls.' (2 marks)

2. Underline the subordinating conjunction in the following sentence: 'While he carefully turned a page, he noticed a mysterious golden bookmark tucked inside.' (1 mark)

3. Combine these two sentences into one by using a subordinate clause: 'Pip felt hungry. He decided to eat his lunch.' (2 marks)

4. Write your own sentence about visiting a library. You must include a subordinate clause starting with the word 'although'. (2 marks)

5. Why can a subordinate clause not stand as a sentence on its own? Explain your answer. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Pip the bookworm sitting in a cosy corner of a library, surrounded by tall towers of books, with the golden bookmark peeking out of an open book.



Extension challenge: Choose two of your favourite books. Write a paragraph describing them, ensuring that every sentence contains at least one subordinate clause.