

Mastering Subordinate Clauses with Max the Mathematician

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

Max the monkey loves to solve equations, but he also loves building complex sentences! A subordinate clause adds extra information but cannot stand alone as a complete sentence. Your task is to combine the 'Main Clause' with the most logical 'Subordinate Clause' from the list below to create a perfectly balanced sentence. Use a subordinating conjunction (like although, because, since, while, or if) to join them. Write your new complex sentences in the space provided.

Word bank: although the rain started to fall · because he had solved the puzzle so quickly · if the sun comes out tomorrow · while he balanced on the branch · since he finished his lunch · even though he was feeling tired

1. Main Clause: Max felt very proud of himself. [Combine with a subordinate clause from the bank] (2 marks)

2. Main Clause: We will head to the park for a picnic. [Combine with a subordinate clause from the bank] (2 marks)

3. Main Clause: The monkey searched for juicy mangoes. [Combine with a subordinate clause from the bank] (2 marks)

4. Explain why a subordinate clause cannot stand alone as a complete sentence, even if it contains a subject and a verb. (3 marks)

5. Compare and contrast: How does adding a subordinate clause change the meaning of the main clause 'Max climbed the tree'? (3 marks)

6. 6. Justify your answer: Does the position of the subordinate clause (at the start or end of a sentence) change the overall meaning of the statement? Give an example. (4 marks)

Draw: Draw Max the monkey sitting in a tree with a thought bubble. Inside the thought bubble, write a complex sentence about his day using one of the subordinate clauses from your activity.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are writing a story about Max's next big adventure. Write three complex sentences of your own that describe his journey through the jungle. Each sentence must include at least one subordinate clause. Challenge: Try placing the subordinate clause at the beginning of one of your sentences, followed by a comma.