

Year 4 English Assessment: Mastering Subordinate Clauses

Learning objective: To identify, punctuate, and construct complex sentences using subordinate clauses.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of conjunctions and sentence structure to complete the tasks. Ensure your handwriting is clear and your punctuation is accurate.

Max the monkey sat in the ancient oak tree. He was busy calculating how many bananas he could buy if he saved his pocket money. Although the sun was beginning to set, he continued to scribble his sums in his notebook. He would not stop until he finished his puzzle.

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

1. Identify the subordinate clause in the following sentence: 'Although the sun was beginning to set, he continued to scribble his sums.' (1 mark)

2. Why does the subordinate clause in the sentence above require a comma? Explain the grammatical rule. (2 marks)

3. Combine these two sentences into one complex sentence using a subordinating conjunction: 'Pip the caterpillar read a new book. She felt very sleepy.' (2 marks)

4. Add a subordinate clause to the start of this sentence: 'Nova the owl watched the stars.' Remember to include the correct punctuation. (2 marks)

5. Circle the conjunctions in the word bank that could be used to show a relationship of time. (2 marks)

6. Explain why a subordinate clause cannot stand alone as a complete sentence. Provide an example to support your answer. (3 marks)

7. Rewrite the following sentence so the subordinate clause comes at the end, and explain how the punctuation changes: 'If Finn finishes his map, he will explore the coral reef.' (3 marks)

8. Write a short paragraph (3-4 sentences) about Zara the zebra visiting an art gallery. You must include at least one subordinate clause starting with 'while' and one starting with 'because'. (5 marks)

9. Compare and contrast the function of a coordinating conjunction (like 'and' or 'but') with a subordinating conjunction (like 'although'). (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene featuring Max the monkey solving a maths puzzle under a tree. Label the main clause of your drawing description with a blue pen and the subordinate clause with a red pen.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Challenge: What might happen to the meaning of a sentence if you moved the subordinate clause from the beginning to the end? Create an example sentence and justify whether the meaning changes or stays the same.