

Mastering Subordinate Clauses with Max and Pip

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

Read the front of each flashcard to test your knowledge of subordinate clauses. Flip to the back (the answer) to check your understanding. Pay close attention to how Max and Pip use these clauses to make their sentences more interesting!

What is a main clause? A main clause contains a subject and a verb and makes sense on its own as a complete sentence.	What is a subordinate clause? A subordinate clause adds extra information to a sentence but cannot stand alone because it does not express a complete thought.
Identify the subordinate clause: 'Max ate a banana because he was hungry.' 'because he was hungry'	Which of these are common subordinating conjunctions? (Name at least three) Examples include: although, because, since, unless, while, whereas, if, until.
True or False: A subordinate clause must always come at the end of a sentence. False. It can appear at the beginning, middle, or end of a sentence.	If a subordinate clause starts a sentence, what punctuation mark is usually needed? A comma, which separates the subordinate clause from the main clause.
What is an 'embedded' subordinate clause? An embedded clause is placed inside a main clause, usually between two commas, to add extra detail.	Complete this sentence with a subordinate clause: 'Pip read her favourite book...' (Example) '...although the sun was setting.' (Any logical clause beginning with a conjunction is correct).
Explain why we use subordinate clauses in our writing. We use them to provide extra detail, explain reasons, describe conditions, or show time relationships, making our writing more sophisticated.	Combine these two sentences into one using a subordinate conjunction: 'The rain stopped. We went outside.' 'We went outside after the rain stopped' or 'After the rain stopped, we went outside.'
Compare and contrast a main clause and a subordinate clause. Both contain a subject and a verb. However, a main clause is independent and makes sense alone, whereas a subordinate clause is dependent and requires a main clause to complete its meaning.	What might happen to the meaning of a sentence if you moved the subordinate clause to a different position? While the core information usually stays the same, changing the position can shift the emphasis or focus of the sentence and change the rhythm of the writing.