

Max's Mathematical Sentence Challenge

Learning objective: To identify and use subordinate clauses to extend sentences effectively.

Help Max the monkey solve these sentence puzzles! Read each question carefully and remember that a subordinate clause adds extra information but cannot stand alone as a complete sentence.

Answer Key: 1. A; 2. B; 3. True; 4. False; 5. Although; 6. True; 7. Because; 8. C; 9. Subordinate; 10. False. (A subordinate clause needs a main clause to make sense).

Word bank: subordinate · main clause · conjunction · comma · complex sentence · information

1. 1. Which of these is a subordinate clause? A) Although it was raining*, B) Max climbed the tree, C) The monkey was happy, D) He ate a banana. (1 mark)

2. 2. Where should the comma go in this sentence: 'Because he was hungry Max ate an apple'? A) After hungry*, B) After he, C) After apple, D) No comma needed. (1 mark)

3. 3. True or False: A subordinate clause starts with a subordinating conjunction like 'if', 'since', or 'until'. (1 mark)

4. 4. True or False: A subordinate clause makes sense on its own as a complete sentence. (1 mark)

5. 5. Complete this sentence: '_____ the sun was hot, we sat in the shade.' (Use a subordinating conjunction). (1 mark)

6. 6. True or False: If a subordinate clause comes after the main clause, you usually do not need a comma. (1 mark)

7. 7. Fill in the missing word: 'Pip read her book _____ she was feeling sleepy.' (1 mark)

8. 8. Which sentence is a complex sentence? A) The lion roared. B) Zara painted a picture. C) While Nova watched the stars, Pip read a book.* D) Ellie walked. (1 mark)

9. 9. In the sentence 'Kit solved the puzzle because he is clever', what is the term for the part 'because he is clever'? (1 mark)

10. 10. True or False: All sentences must contain a subordinate clause to be grammatically correct. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw Max the monkey sitting on a branch holding a sign that says 'Subordinate Clauses are fun!'. Add a thought bubble above him showing a complex sentence about his favourite fruit.



Extension challenge: Write three complex sentences about an adventure Pip the caterpillar goes on. Each sentence must start with a different subordinating conjunction (e.g., Unless, Whenever, Since).