

Conjunctions with Max the Math-Monkey

Learning objective: To use a range of subordinating and coordinating conjunctions to create complex and compound sentences.

Read the passage about Max's busy day in the jungle. Then, complete the questions to show how you can use conjunctions to join ideas together. Remember: coordinating conjunctions join two main clauses, while subordinating conjunctions add extra detail about time, place, or reason.

Max the monkey is never bored because he loves solving puzzles. He sits in the canopy, and he counts the falling leaves. He tried to count every single piece of fruit in the orchard, but he ran out of fingers. Max decided to use his tail as an abacus. He will not stop working until he finds the solution to his latest sum. He is a very clever monkey, although he sometimes gets distracted by a shiny beetle.

Word bank: although · because · but · so · unless · while · since · yet

1. Find two coordinating conjunctions used in the text. Explain how they are used to join the clauses. (2 marks)

2. Max says, 'I am hungry, ____ I have finished my math.' Which subordinating conjunction fits best in this sentence? Explain your choice. (2 marks)

3. Combine these two sentences into one using a subordinating conjunction: 'Max climbed the tall tree. He wanted to see the stars.' (2 marks)

4. Compare and contrast the function of 'because' and 'but'. How do they change the meaning of a sentence? (3 marks)

5. Justify why a writer might choose to use 'although' at the beginning of a sentence rather than in the middle. (2 marks)

6. What might happen if you removed all the conjunctions from a paragraph? Explain the impact on the reader. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw Max the monkey sitting on a branch holding a notepad. Add speech bubbles around him showing two different sentences joined by a conjunction of your choice.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph about an adventure Max has. You must include at least two subordinating conjunctions and two coordinating conjunctions. Underline your conjunctions and explain why you chose those specific words to link your ideas.