

Mastering Subordinate Clauses with Pip the Bookworm

Learning objective: To understand, identify, and use subordinate clauses to add extra information to sentences.

Read each flashcard carefully to learn about subordinate clauses. Use these cards to test your knowledge of how to combine sentences using subordinating conjunctions.

What is a main clause?

A main clause is a group of words that makes sense on its own as a complete sentence.

What is a subordinate clause?

A subordinate clause adds extra information to a sentence but does not make sense on its own.

Does a subordinate clause need a main clause to be a full sentence?

Yes, it must be attached to a main clause to make complete sense.

What is a subordinating conjunction?

A word used to join a subordinate clause to a main clause, such as 'because', 'while', or 'if'.

In the sentence 'Pip read his book because he loved stories', which part is the subordinate clause?

'because he loved stories'

If a subordinate clause comes at the start of a sentence, what punctuation must follow it?

A comma.

Identify the conjunction in this sentence: 'Although it was raining, Nova went stargazing.'

Although

Rewrite this sentence with the subordinate clause at the start: 'Max ate a banana because he was hungry.'

Because he was hungry, Max ate a banana.

True or False: A subordinate clause can stand alone as a sentence.

False.

Add a subordinate clause to this main clause: 'Ellie walked to the library...'

Answers will vary, e.g., 'Ellie walked to the library because she wanted a new book.'

Why do we use subordinate clauses in our writing?

To add detail, explain reasons, or describe when and where things happen.

Which subordinating conjunction shows a reason?

Because (or since).