

Grade 4 Grammar Assessment: Mastering Subordinate Clauses

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

Read each question carefully. Ensure your sentences are punctuated correctly, remembering that a subordinate clause cannot stand alone as a complete sentence.

Max the monkey was busy preparing for his jungle feast. Although he had gathered plenty of bananas, he still needed to find some coconuts. He searched near the river, where the tall palm trees grew, because he knew they were the tastiest. If he found enough fruit, he would share them with his friends.

Word bank: although · because · since · which · while · if · unless · who

1. Identify the subordinate clause in the following sentence: 'While Nova the owl stargazed, she spotted a shooting star.' (2 marks)

2. Explain why a subordinate clause is different from a main clause. (2 marks)

3. Add a subordinate clause to this main clause: 'Pip the caterpillar crawled slowly along the leaf.' (Remember to use a comma if your clause comes first). (3 marks)

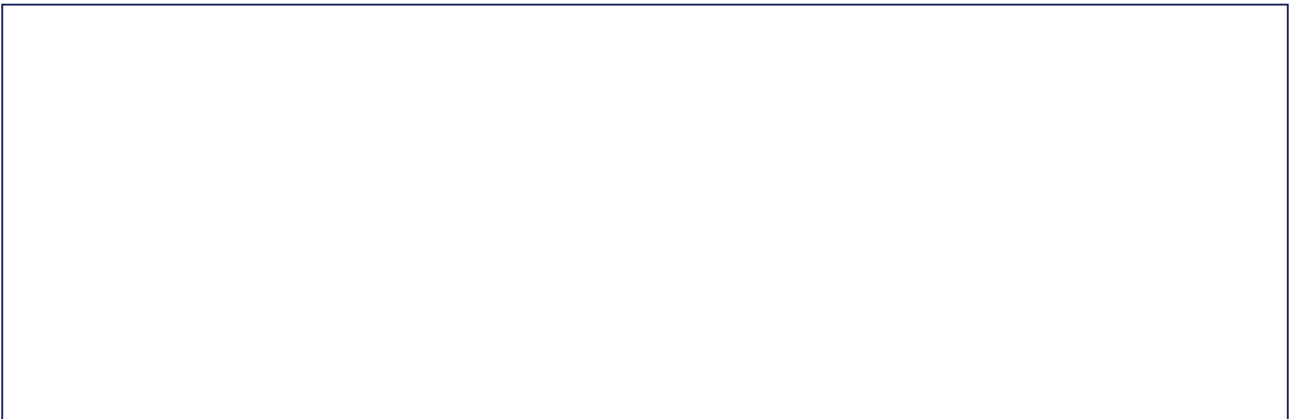
4. Underline the subordinate clause in this sentence and circle the subordinating conjunction: 'Zara the zebra painted a colorful mural because she wanted to brighten the meadow.' (3 marks)

5. Rewrite the following two simple sentences as one complex sentence using a subordinate clause: 'Finn the dolphin swam quickly. He wanted to catch up with the migrating school of fish.' (4 marks)

6. Add a relative clause to this sentence to provide extra information about the subject: 'Leo the lion roared loudly.' (3 marks)

7. Write a short paragraph (3-4 sentences) about a day at a forest school, using at least three subordinate clauses. You must use at least two different subordinating conjunctions. (8 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the monkey sharing his fruit with Pip the caterpillar. Label your drawing with a sentence that contains a subordinate clause.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Challenge: Can you write a sentence that contains two subordinate clauses and one main clause?