

Mastering Conjunctions with Max the Mathematician

Learning objective: To use a wider range of conjunctions, including subordinating and coordinating, to link clauses and sentences effectively.

Read the story below about Max's woodland workshop. Identify the conjunctions used to join ideas together, then complete the challenges to test your understanding of complex sentence structures.

Max the monkey was busy organising his workshop, yet he found it difficult to keep his wooden blocks in order. He decided to build a clever sorting machine because he wanted to save time for his maths puzzles. Although the machine was intricate, it functioned perfectly whenever Max pressed the green lever. Max felt proud while he watched the gears turn, whereas his friend Pip the caterpillar preferred to watch the clouds drift by. Max explained that the machine would keep working unless a stray leaf jammed the cogs, since the mechanism was quite sensitive to woodland debris.

Word bank: although · because · since · unless · yet · whereas · whenever · while

1. Identify two subordinating conjunctions from the passage and explain how they change the meaning of the sentence. (2 marks)

2. Why has the author used the word 'yet' in the first sentence? What kind of conjunction is it? (2 marks)

3. Rewrite the final sentence of the passage, replacing 'since' with a different conjunction that keeps the sentence grammatically correct. (2 marks)

4. Compare the use of 'whereas' in the passage to the use of 'while'. How do these conjunctions help to contrast the characters' activities? (2 marks)

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

Draw: Draw a diagram of Max's sorting machine. Label the different parts using complex sentences that include at least one conjunction (e.g., 'The lever is shiny, although it is quite stiff to move.').



Extension challenge: Imagine you are inventing a new machine to help our BookFlik friends. Write a short paragraph describing how it works. You must include at least four different conjunctions from the word bank and explain why your invention is necessary for the forest community.