

Clause Construction with Kit the Fox

Learning objective: To identify, construct, and manipulate subordinate clauses to add complexity and detail to sentences.

Kit the Fox is building a complex machine, and he needs your help to join his ideas together! A subordinate clause adds extra information but cannot stand alone as a complete sentence. Use the conjunctions in the word bank to turn the simple sentence fragments into complex sentences. Ensure your new sentences include a main clause and a subordinate clause.

Word bank: although · because · while · since · unless · whenever · if · until

1. Kit was working on his machine. He felt very tired. (Join these using 'although' and explain why the meaning changes.) (2 marks)

2. The machine started to whirl. The sun began to set. (Join these using 'while' and identify which part of your sentence is the subordinate clause.) (2 marks)

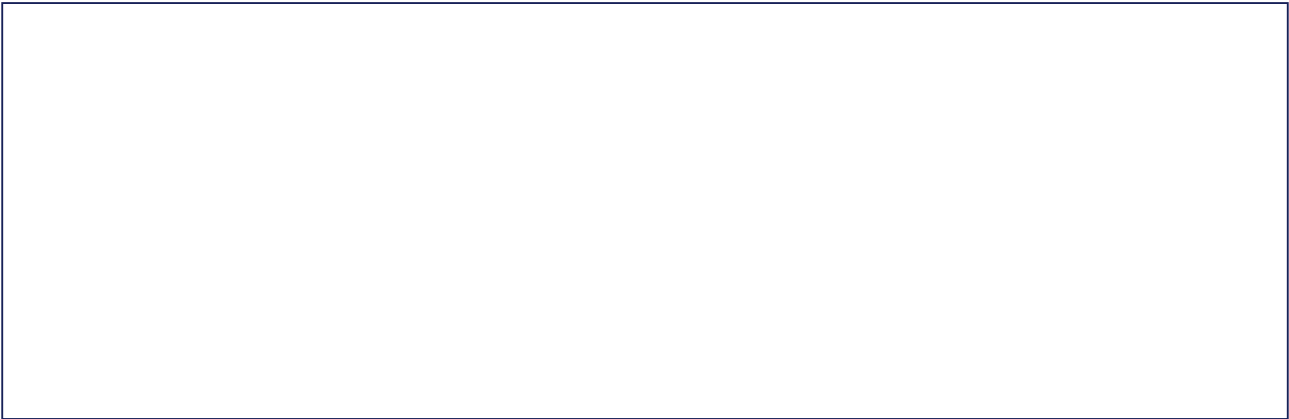
3. The gears will turn. You press the blue button. (Join these using 'unless' and justify why this sentence now expresses a condition.) (2 marks)

4. Compare and contrast: How does adding a subordinate clause change the tone or 'feel' of a sentence compared to using two simple sentences? (2 marks)

5. What might happen if you moved the subordinate clause to the beginning of your sentence? Provide an example using the conjunction 'since'. (2 marks)

6. Critique this sentence: 'Because Kit was clever.' Is this a complete sentence? Justify your answer using your knowledge of main and subordinate clauses. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw Kit the Fox standing next to his complex invention. Label the different parts of the machine using sentences that contain at least one subordinate clause.



Extension challenge: Compose a short, three-sentence paragraph describing an adventure Kit has with his machine. You must use a different subordinating conjunction in each sentence. Challenge: Try placing the subordinate clause at the start of one sentence and at the end of another.