

Year 5 English Assessment: Mastering Subordinate Clauses

Learning objective: To identify, punctuate, and construct complex sentences using subordinate clauses.

Read each question carefully. Ensure your sentences are punctuated accurately. Use your best handwriting and check your work for clarity and flow.

Max the monkey was busy calculating the number of bananas in the orchard. Although the sun was beginning to set, he refused to stop his work. He checked his notebook, which was filled with complex equations, to ensure his data was accurate. If he finished his task before nightfall, he would have time to join his friends for a celebration.

Word bank: although · because · since · which · while · if · whenever · before

1. Identify one subordinate clause from the passage above and write it down. (1 mark)

2. Explain why the subordinate clause 'Although the sun was beginning to set' requires a comma after it in the passage. (2 marks)

3. Combine these two simple sentences into one complex sentence using a subordinating conjunction: 'Pip read her favourite book.' 'The rain tapped against the window.' (2 marks)

4. Add a subordinate clause to the following main clause to create a complex sentence: 'Nova looked through her telescope...' (2 marks)

5. Rewrite the following sentence so the subordinate clause comes at the beginning: 'Ellie remembered the ancient story because she had heard it from her grandmother.' (2 marks)

6. Compare and contrast the function of a relative clause (starting with 'which' or 'who') and a standard subordinate clause. Provide an example of each. (4 marks)

7. Justify your answer: Does moving the position of a subordinate clause change the meaning of a sentence? Support your reasoning with an example. (3 marks)

8. Creative Writing Task: Write a short paragraph (4-6 sentences) describing an adventure led by Leo the lion. You must include at least three subordinate clauses, each used in a different position within the sentences. Use rich vocabulary to describe the setting. (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene where Nova the owl is stargazing from a tree branch, and include a speech bubble where she uses a complex sentence containing a subordinate clause to describe what she sees.



Extension challenge: What might happen to the clarity of a text if a writer forgot to use commas after fronted subordinate clauses? Explain your reasoning in a short paragraph. Total: /25