

# Mastering Subordinate Clauses with Max and Pip

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

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of sentence structure. Read the front of the card, attempt to answer, then check the back to see if you have mastered the concept.

**What is a subordinate clause?**

A subordinate clause is a part of a sentence that adds extra information but does not make sense on its own.

**Identify the subordinate clause in this sentence: 'Max ate a banana because he was hungry.'**

'because he was hungry'

**What is a subordinating conjunction?**

A word used to link a subordinate clause to a main clause, such as 'although', 'since', 'if', or 'when'.

**Can a subordinate clause stand alone as a complete sentence?**

No, it is a dependent clause and requires a main clause to form a complete, grammatically correct sentence.

**True or False: A subordinate clause must always come after the main clause.**

False. It can come at the beginning, middle, or end of a sentence.

**What punctuation is needed if a subordinate clause starts a sentence?**

A comma is usually placed after the subordinate clause to separate it from the main clause.

**What is a relative clause?**

A type of subordinate clause that starts with a relative pronoun like 'who', 'which', 'that', or 'whose' to describe a noun.

**Identify the relative clause in this sentence: 'Pip, who loves reading, sat in the library.'**

'who loves reading'

**Complete this sentence with a subordinate clause: 'The rain poured down \_\_\_\_.'**

(Example) '...although the sun had been shining earlier.'

**What makes a sentence 'complex'?**

A complex sentence is formed by joining at least one main clause with one or more subordinate clauses.

**Rewrite this simple sentence as a complex sentence: 'Max climbed the tree.'**

(Example) 'Because he was searching for fruit, Max climbed the tree.'

**Why do writers use subordinate clauses?**

To provide detail, explain reasons, describe conditions, and create more flow and sophistication in their writing.