

Mastering Subordinate Clauses with Kit the Fox

Learning objective: To identify and use subordinate clauses to expand and clarify sentences, ensuring accurate punctuation and cohesive writing.

Read the passage below about Kit the Fox's laboratory. A subordinate clause adds extra information but cannot stand alone as a complete sentence. It usually begins with a subordinating conjunction (e.g., although, because, since, unless, while). Answer the questions to show your understanding.

Kit the Fox adjusted his goggles while he calibrated his latest invention. Although the machine hummed quietly, it was ready to solve the most complex puzzles. Kit felt confident because he had double-checked every calculation. He decided that he would not start the experiment unless the safety protocol was perfectly finalised. Since he valued precision above all else, Kit meticulously recorded his progress in his digital journal.

Word bank: although · because · since · unless · while · whenever · whereas · provided that

1. Identify the subordinate clause in the first sentence: 'Kit the Fox adjusted his goggles while he calibrated his latest invention.' Explain why this clause cannot stand alone as a complete sentence. (2 marks)

2. In the sentence, 'He decided that he would not start the experiment unless the safety protocol was perfectly finalised,' identify the subordinating conjunction and explain how it alters the meaning of the main clause. (2 marks)

3. Combine these two sentences into one using a subordinating conjunction: 'Kit checked his data twice. He wanted to ensure there were no errors.' (2 marks)

4. Compare the function of a subordinating conjunction to a coordinating conjunction (like 'and' or 'but'). How do they differ in how they connect ideas? (3 marks)

5. Justify your answer: In the sentence 'Although the machine hummed quietly, it was ready to solve the most complex puzzles,' why is a comma necessary after the word 'quietly'? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram of Kit the Fox's invention. Include labels for the different parts and write one descriptive sentence at the bottom that uses a subordinate clause to describe what one of the parts does.



Extension challenge: What might happen to the clarity of a story if an author wrote only using simple sentences instead of using subordinate clauses? Write a short paragraph (4-5 sentences) about a new invention for the BookFlik characters, ensuring you use at least three different subordinating conjunctions to create complex sentences.