

Mastering Subordinate Clauses with Max and Pip

Learning objective: To identify, punctuate, and construct complex sentences using subordinate clauses to add detail and precision to writing.

Read each question carefully. Remember that a subordinate clause adds extra information but cannot stand alone as a complete sentence. Use commas correctly when the subordinate clause comes before the main clause.

Max the monkey is busy solving mathematical puzzles, while Pip the caterpillar reads beneath a giant oak leaf.

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

1. Identify the subordinate clause in the following sentence: 'Although it was raining, the explorers continued their journey through the woods.' Explain why this part cannot stand as a complete sentence. (2 marks)

2. Rewrite the sentence below by adding a subordinate clause starting with 'because'. Ensure you use the correct punctuation: 'Leo the lion roared loudly.' (2 marks)

3. Combine these two sentences into one complex sentence using a subordinating conjunction: 'Nova watched the stars. She waited for the moon to rise.' (2 marks)

4. Compare and contrast: Why does the placement of a comma change depending on whether the subordinate clause is at the beginning or the end of a sentence? (2 marks)

5. Justify your answer: In the sentence 'Unless you finish your homework, you cannot go outside to play,' is the subordinate clause essential to the meaning of the main clause? Why? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene where Pip the caterpillar is reading a book under a large leaf, and Nova the owl is perched on a branch above. Add a speech bubble for each character containing a sentence that includes a subordinate clause.



Extension challenge: Write a short, descriptive paragraph (4-6 sentences) about an adventure in the forest. You must include at least three different subordinate clauses, each starting with a different conjunction from the word bank. Challenge yourself to place at least one subordinate clause at the start of a sentence.