

Mastering Subordinate Clauses with Max the Mathematician

Learning objective: To use subordinate clauses to add detail and complexity to sentences, creating a sophisticated narrative style.

Max the monkey is calculating the best way to tell an adventure story. Use the word bank to add extra information to your sentences. Remember: a subordinate clause adds detail but cannot stand alone as a complete sentence. Use a comma if your subordinate clause comes before your main clause.

Max stared at the complex map, which was covered in mysterious symbols and ancient ink stains.

Word bank: although · because · since · unless · while · even though · provided that · whenever · as soon as · in order to

1. Setting the Scene: Describe the environment where Max is exploring. Start your sentence with a subordinate clause using 'Although' or 'While'. (2 marks)

2. The Problem: Explain why Max felt challenged by the maths puzzle he found. Use 'because' or 'since' to link your ideas. (2 marks)

3. The Solution: Describe Max's clever idea to solve the puzzle. Use 'as soon as' to show the timing of his discovery. (2 marks)

4. Explain why adding a subordinate clause changes the rhythm and flow of a paragraph compared to using only short, simple sentences. (3 marks)

5. Compare and contrast: How does the meaning of your sentence change if you move the subordinate clause from the beginning to the end of the sentence? Justify your choice of placement. (3 marks)

6. What might happen if you removed all subordinate clauses from your story? How would this affect the reader's understanding of the setting and the character's emotions? (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are writing a report on a new invention. Write three complex sentences about how your invention works, ensuring each includes a subordinate clause that explains the 'why' or the 'how'. Use at least one subordinate clause starting with 'even though'.