Year 6 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 correctly and your handwriting is clear. You have 30 minutes to complete this assessment.

Max the monkey was busy calculating the number of bananas in his basket. Although he had already counted fifty, he wanted to be certain. Because he loved precision, Max checked his work twice. He felt very proud when he finally finished the puzzle.

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

1. Identify one subordinate clause in the passage provided. Write it below. (1 mark)

2. Explain why the clause you identified above is considered a subordinate clause. Refer to the structure of the sentence. (2 marks)

3. Rewrite the following simple sentence by adding a subordinate clause to the beginning: 'Pip read a long book.' Remember to use the correct punctuation. (2 marks)

4. Circle the subordinating conjunctions in this list: because, monkey, since, table, unless, quickly, while. (3 marks)

5. Combine these two sentences into one complex sentence using a subordinating conjunction: 'Nova looked through her telescope. She wanted to spot the North Star.' (3 marks)

6. Correct the punctuation in this sentence: 'Whenever it rains in the jungle the animals seek shelter under the large leaves.' (4 marks)

7. Write a short paragraph (3-5 sentences) about an adventure involving Ellie the elephant. You must include at least two subordinate clauses. Ensure you underline the subordinate clauses. (5 marks)

8. Explain the difference between a main clause and a subordinate clause. Why can't a subordinate clause stand alone as a sentence? (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the monkey solving a maths puzzle, and write a caption for your drawing that includes a subordinate clause starting with 'Although'.

Extension challenge: Total: /25