Mastering Subordinate Clauses with Pip

Join Pip the Bookworm and level up your sentences by adding extra detail!

■ **A subordinate clause contains a subject and a verb, but it does not make sense on its own. It relies on a main clause to complete its meaning.**

■ **Subordinating conjunctions are the 'glue' that links clauses. Look out for words like: although, because, since, unless, while, and if.**

■ **If a sentence begins with a subordinate clause, you must use a comma to separate it from the main clause. For example: 'Because it was raining, Pip stayed inside to read.'**

■ **When the main clause comes first, you usually do not need a comma. For example: 'Pip stayed inside to read because it was raining.'**

■ **Relative clauses are a special type of subordinate clause that start with words like: who, which, where, when, whose, or that.**

Did you know? Did you know? A subordinate clause is like a delicious snack for your writing—it cannot stand alone as a meal (a complete sentence), but when you attach it to a main clause, it adds flavour, information, and sophistication to your story!

Key vocabulary: Subordinate clause · Main clause · Subordinating conjunction · Relative pronoun · Complex sentence · Comma