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Complex Sentences - Year 5

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Complex Sentences

at a Glance

A complex sentence has one main clause and at least one subordinate clause.

MAIN CLAUSE

Makes sense on its own.

*the class returned
to the oval*

SUBORDINATE CLAUSE

Adds meaning but cannot
stand alone.

because the rain eased

CONJUNCTION MEANINGS

TIME — after, before, when, while

CAUSE — because, since, as

CONDITION — if, unless

CONTRAST — although, even though, whereas

PLACE — where, wherever

MAIN CLAUSE

SUBORDINATE
CLAUSE

SUBORDINATE
CLAUSE

1

Because the rain eased, the class returned to the oval.

2

The class returned to the oval *because the rain eased.*



COMMA REMINDER

Subordinate clause first? Place a comma before the main clause.

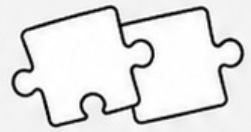
Worksheet 1: Clause Foundations

Page 1 of 2

Name: _____

A. Does it stand alone?

For each word group, tick **Complete thought** or **Not complete**.



	Complete thought	Not complete
1. The lantern glowed beside the path.	☐	☐
2. because the batteries were new	☐	☐
3. Our class planned a garden.	☐	☐
4. although the soil was dry	☐	☐
5. when the final bell rang	☐	☐
6. The volunteers carried the tools.	☐	☐

B. Complete the clause

Add words to make each starter a complete main clause.



1. The kookaburra

2. My favorite book ...

3. The science team ...

4. A sudden breeze ...

A main clause makes sense on its own.

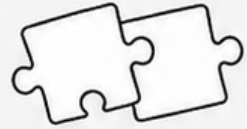
Worksheet 1: Clause Foundations

Page 1 of 2

Name: **ANSWERS**

A. Does it stand alone?

For each word group, tick **Complete thought** or **Not complete**.



	Complete thought	Not complete
1. The lantern glowed beside the path.	☒	☐
2. because the batteries were new	☐	☒
3. Our class planned a garden.	☒	☐
4. although the soil was dry	☐	☐
5. when the final bell rang	☐	☒
6. The volunteers carried the tools.	☒	☐

B. Complete the clause

Add words to make each shorter complete main clause.



- The kookaburra
laughed from the gum tree.
- My favourite book ...
won the class reading award.
- The science team ...
recorded the results carefully.
- A sudden breeze ...
swept across the playground.

A main clause makes sense on its own.

Name: _____

Worksheet 1: Clause Foundations

Page 2 of 2



A. Find the clauses

Circle the conjunction. Underline the main clause once and the subordinate clause twice.

1. The seedlings stood upright after the morning rain ended.

2. Although the path was narrow, volunteers moved the wheelbarrows carefully.

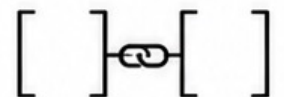
3. We covered the compost because a strong wind was forecast.

4. When the bell rang, the gardening group packed away its tools.

5. The herbs grew where sunlight reached the garden bed.

6. Unless the soil becomes damp, the new plants will need water.

B. Explain the meaning



Choose one sentence. Explain what extra meaning its subordinate clause adds.

A subordinate clause adds information but cannot stand alone.

Name: ANSWERS

Worksheet 1: Clause Foundations

Page 2 of 2



A. Find the clauses

Circle the conjunction. Underline the main clause once and the subordinate clause twice.

1. The seedlings stood upright after the morning rain ended.

2. Although the path was narrow, volunteers moved the wheelbarrows carefully.

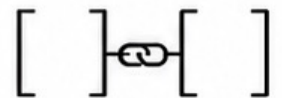
3. We covered the compost because a strong wind was forecast.

4. When the bell rang, the gardening gnomes packed away their tools.

5. The herbs grew where sunlight reached the garden bed.

6. Unless the soil becomes damp, the new plants will need water.

B. Explain the meaning



Choose one sentence. Explain what extra meaning its subordinate clause adds.

In sentence 3, the subordinate clause explains why the compost was covered.

A subordinate clause adds information but cannot stand alone.

Name: _____



Worksheet 2: Main or Subordinate?

A. Classify each clause

Tick Main clause or Subordinate clause for each word group.

	Main clause	Subordinate clause
1. the drone hovered above the field	☐	☐
2. while the students measured the distance	☐	☐
3. our team solved the final clue	☐	☐
4. because the map was upside down	☐	☐
5. unless the timer stops	☐	☐
6. the audience cheered loudly	☐	☐
7. after the librarian opened the doors	☐	☐
8. the cyclists checked their helmets	☐	☐
9. although the path looked steep	☐	☐
10. a rainbow appeared above the hill	☐	☐
11. wherever the trail bends	☐	☐
12. the robot followed the commands	☐	☐

B. Add main clause

Complete each starter with a main clause. Use a comma after the opening subordinate clause.



1. When the music ended, ...

2. Although the recipe looked difficult, ...

3. Unless the weather improves, ...

A main clause can stand alone. A subordinate clause cannot.

Name: _____ **ANSWERS**



Worksheet 2: Main or Subordinate?

A. Classify each clause

Tick Main clause or Subordinate clause for each word group.

	Main clause	Subordinate clause
1. the drone hovered above the field	☒	☐
2. while the students measured the distance	☐	☒
3. our team solved the final clue	☒	☐
4. because the map was upside down	☐	☒
5. unless the timer stops	☐	☒
6. the audience cheered loudly	☒	☐
7. after the librarian opened the doors	☐	☒
8. the cyclists checked their helmets	☒	☐
9. although the path looked steep	☐	☒
10. a rainbow appeared above the hill	☒	☐
11. wherever the trail bends	☐	☒
12. the robot followed the commands	☒	☐

B. Add a main clause

Complete each starter with a main clause. Use a comma after the opening subordinate clause.



- When the music ended, ...
the hall became quiet.
- Although the recipe looked difficult, ...
our group followed each step.
- Unless the weather improves, ...
the sports carnival will move indoors.

A main clause can stand alone. A subordinate clause cannot.

Worksheet 3: Subordinating Conjunctions

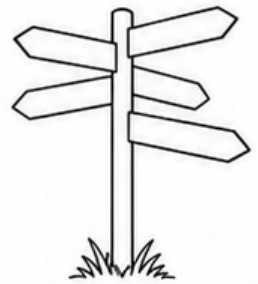
Page 1 of 2

Name: _____

A. Sort the word bank

Write each conjunction in the meaning group where it belongs.

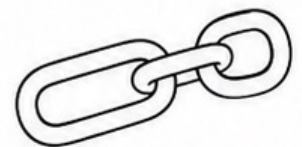
after although because before if since unless when where while



Meaning	Conjunctions
TIME	_____
CAUSE	_____
CONDITION	_____
CONTRAST	_____
PLACE	_____

B. Name the relationship

Tick the meaning shown by the **bold** conjunction.



	Time	Cause	Condition	Contrast	Place
1. The mural on the wall while the windows stayed open.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
2. Because the tide was rising, we left the rock pool.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
3. We can begin if every team is ready.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
4. Although the puzzle was difficult, Zara kept trying.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
5. The guide stopped where the track divided.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Ask: What relationship does the conjunction show?

Worksheet 3: Subordinating Conjunctions

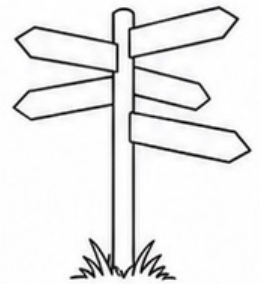
Page 1 of 2

Name: ANSWERS

A. Sort the word bank

Write each conjunction in the meaning group where it belongs.

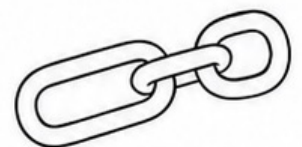
after although because before if since unless when where while



Meaning	Conjunctions
TIME	<u>after</u> <u>before</u> <u>when</u> <u>while</u>
CAUSE	<u>because</u> <u>since</u>
CONDITION	<u>if</u> <u>unless</u>
CONTRAST	<u>although</u>
PLACE	<u>where</u>

B. Name the relationship

Tick the meaning shown by the **bold** conjunction.



	Time	Cause	Condition	Contrast	Place
1. The mural dried while the windows stayed open.	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
2. Because the tide was rising, we left the rock pool.	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
3. We can begin if every team is ready.	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐
4. Although the puzzle was difficult, Zara kept trying.	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐
5. The guide stopped where the track divided.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

Ask: What relationship does the conjunction show?

Name: _____

Worksheet 3: Subordinating Conjunctions

Page 2 of 2

A. Choose for meaning

Choose the best conjunction from the word bank. Use each word once.



although because before if unless when wherever while

1.	Wear a hat _____ the sun is strong.
2.	_____ the gates open, visitors will enter the wildlife park.
3.	The team will practise outdoors _____ it rains.
4.	_____ the model was small, it showed every detail.
5.	Check the measurements _____ you put the boards down.
6.	You may sit _____ you can see the stage.
7.	We can borrow the equipment _____ the teacher agrees.
8.	Record the rainfall _____ your partner checks the gauge.

B. Explain two choices

Choose any two answers. Explain the relationship each conjunction creates.



1. Sentence number: _____

2. Sentence number: _____

Choose a conjunction that makes the intended meaning clear.

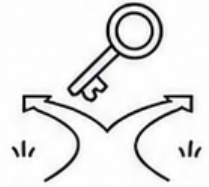
Name: ANSWERS

Worksheet 3: Subordinating Conjunctions

Page 2 of 2

A. Choose for meaning

Choose the best conjunction from the word bank. Use each word once.



although because before if unless when wherever while

1.	Wear a hat <u>because</u> the sun is strong.
2.	<u>When</u> the gates open, visitors will enter the wildlife park.
3.	The team will practise outdoors <u>unless</u> it rains.
4.	<u>Although</u> the model was small, it showed every detail.
5.	Check the measurements <u>before</u> you put the boards down.
6.	You may sit <u>wherever</u> you can see the statue.
7.	We can borrow the equipment <u>if</u> the teacher agrees.
8.	Record the rainfall <u>while</u> your partner checks the gauge.

B. Explain two choices

Choose any two answers. Explain the relationship each conjunction creates.



1. Sentence number: 1

Because introduces the reason for wearing a hat.

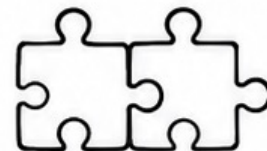
2. Sentence number: 4

Although shows a contrast between size and detail.

Choose a conjunction that makes the intended meaning clear.

Name: _____

Worksheet 4: Combine and Reorder



A. Combine the clauses

Use the conjunction shown to combine each pair into one complex sentence.

1. **MAIN:** The rescue dog followed the scent.
SUBORDINATE: the trail became faint

USE: even though

2. **MAIN:** We packed the art supplies.
SUBORDINATE: the workshop ended

USE: after

3. **MAIN:** The class will visit the museum.
SUBORDINATE: permission forms are returned

USE: only

4. **MAIN:** The projector turned off.
SUBORDINATE: the timer reached zero

USE: when

5. **MAIN:** Ava spoke quietly.
SUBORDINATE: the baby was sleeping

USE: because

6. **MAIN:** The hiker rested.
SUBORDINATE: they found a shaded clearing

USE: where

B. Reorder the clauses

Rewrite each sentence with the subordinate clause first. Add the comma.

1. We recorded the results after the experiment finished.

2. The team continued although the rain was heavy.

3. You can join the excursion if your form is signed.

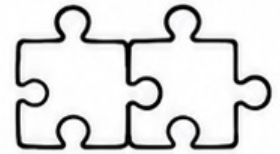


Changing clause order can change emphasis, but the meaning must remain clear.

Name: _____

ANSWERS

Worksheet 4: Combine and Reorder



A. Combine the clauses

Use the conjunction shown to combine each pair into one complex sentence.

1. **MAIN:** The rescue dog followed the scent.
SUBORDINATE: the trail became faint

USE: even though

The rescue dog followed the scent even though the trail became faint.

2. **MAIN:** We packed the art supplies.
SUBORDINATE: the workshop ended

USE: after

We packed the art supplies after the workshop ended.

3. **MAIN:** The class will visit the museum.
SUBORDINATE: permission forms are returned

USE: if

The class will visit the museum if permission forms are returned.

4. **MAIN:** The projector turned off.
SUBORDINATE: the timer reached zero

USE: when

The projector turned off when the timer reached zero.

5. **MAIN:** Ava spoke quietly.
SUBORDINATE: the baby was sleeping

USE: because

Ava spoke quietly because the baby was sleeping.

6. **MAIN:** The hikers rested.
SUBORDINATE: they found a shaded clearing

USE: where

The hikers rested where they found a shaded clearing.

B. Reorder the clauses

Rewrite each sentence with the subordinate clause first. Add the comma.

1. We recorded the results after the experiment finished.

After the experiment finished, we recorded the results.

2. The team continued although the rain was heavy.

Although the rain was heavy, the team continued.

3. You can join the excursion if your form is signed.

If your form is signed, you can join the excursion.



Changing clause order can change emphasis, but the meaning must remain clear.

Name: _____

Worksheet 5: Commas and Clause Order

A. Edit the sentences

Rewrite each sentence correctly. Check capitals, commas and clause order.
Some are already correct.



1. When the lights dimmed the audience became quiet.

2. We stayed inside, because the air was smoky.

3. although the gate was locked, the caretaker found another entrance.

4. The team celebrated when the final score appeared.

5. Unless you charge the tablet it will switch off.

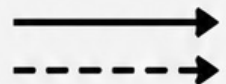
6. I carried an umbrella although the sky was clear.

7. Wherever the river flows we will check the depth.

8. before the bus arrived we checked the roll.

B. State the rule

Complete each rule in your own words.



Rule 1 starter: If a subordinate clause comes first, ...

Rule 2 starter: If a main clause comes first, ...

Read the sentence aloud and listen for the clause boundary.

Name: ANSWERS

Worksheet 5: Commas and Clause Order

A. Edit the sentences

Rewrite each sentence correctly. Check capitals, commas and clause order.
Some are already correct.



1. When the lights dimmed the audience became quiet.

When the lights dimmed, the audience became quiet.

2. We stayed inside, because the air was smoky.

We stayed inside because the air was smoky.

3. although the gate was locked, the caretaker found another entrance.

Although the gate was locked, the caretaker found another entrance.

4. The team celebrated when the final score appeared.

The team celebrated when the final score appeared.

5. Unless you charge the tablet it will switch off.

Unless you charge the tablet, it will switch off.

6. I carried an umbrella although the sky was clear.

I carried an umbrella although the sky was clear.

7. Wherever the river bends, we will check the depth.

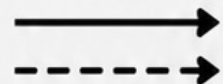
Wherever the river bends, we will check the depth.

8. before the bus arrived we checked the roll.

Before the bus arrived, we checked the roll.

B. State the rule

Complete each rule in your own words.



Rule 1 starter: If a subordinate clause comes first, ...

add a comma after the opening subordinate clause.

Rule 2 starter: If a main clause comes first, ...

a comma is usually not needed before the subordinate clause.

Read the sentence aloud and listen for the clause boundary.

Worksheet 6: Edit and Craft Complex Sentences

Page 1 of 2

Name: _____

Repair each sentence

Rewrite each item as a clear, correctly punctuated complex sentence.
You may need to complete a fragment, replace a conjunction or remove a comma.



1. Because the queue moved quickly.

☐ Fragment

☐ Conjunction

☐ Comma

☐ Meaning

2. The team wore raincoats although storms were forecast.

☐ Fragment

☐ Conjunction

☐ Comma

☐ Meaning

3. When the siren sounded the swimmers left the pool.

☐ Fragment

☐ Conjunction

☐ Comma

☐ Meaning

4. Although the battery was flat the torch would not work.

☐ Fragment

☐ Conjunction

☐ Comma

☐ Meaning

5. The choir continued because the power failed.

☐ Fragment

☐ Conjunction

☐ Comma

☐ Meaning

6. We will begin the hike, if everyone arrives on time.

☐ Fragment

☐ Conjunction

☐ Comma

☐ Meaning

Final check

Does each sentence have a main clause, a subordinate clause and a clear relationship?

☐ Yes



Editing improves both accuracy and meaning.

Worksheet 6: Edit and Craft Complex Sentences

Page 1 of 2

Name: **ANSWERS**

Repair each sentence

Rewrite each item as a clear, correctly punctuated complex sentence.
You may need to complete a fragment, replace a conjunction or remove a comma.



1. Because the queue moved quickly.

☒ Fragment

☐ Conjunction

☐ Comma

☐ Meaning

We entered the hall quickly because the queue moved quickly.

2. The team wore raincoats although storms were forecast.

☐ Fragment

☒ Conjunction

☐ Comma

☐ Meaning

The team wore raincoats because storms were forecast.

3. When the siren sounded the swimmers left the pool.

☐ Fragment

☐ Conjunction

☒ Comma

☐ Meaning

When the siren sounded, the swimmers left the pool.

4. Although the battery was flat, the torch would not work.

☐ Fragment

☒ Conjunction

☐ Comma

☐ Meaning

Because the battery was flat, the torch would not work.

5. The choir continued because the power failed.

☐ Fragment

☒ Conjunction

☐ Comma

☐ Meaning

The choir continued although the power failed.

6. We will begin the hike, if everyone arrives on time.

☐ Fragment

☐ Conjunction

☒ Comma

☐ Meaning

We will begin the hike if everyone arrives on time.

Final check

Does each sentence have a main clause, a subordinate clause and a clear relationship?

☒ Yes



Editing improves both accuracy and meaning.

Worksheet 6: Edit and Craft Complex Sentences

Page 2 of 2

Name: _____

School-garden writing challenge

Your class is planning a small garden beside the library. The soil is dry, rain is expected, seedlings need protection, and volunteers can help after lunch.

Write four complex sentences. Make each relationship clear and vary the clause order.

1. TIME

Choices: *when, after, before, while*

Conjunction: _____

Prompt: Explain when one garden action will happen.

Complex sentence: _____



2. CAUSE

Choices: *because, since*

Conjunction: _____

Prompt: Explain why one garden action is needed.

Complex sentence: _____



3. CONDITION

Choices: *if, unless*

Conjunction: _____

Prompt: Explain the condition for success.

Complex sentence: _____



4. CONTRAST

Choices: *although, even though*

Conjunction: _____

Prompt: Show an unexpected contrast.

Complex sentence: _____



Self-check

- ☐ Main clause ☐ Subordinate clause ☐ Clear conjunction ☐ Comma if needed

Each sentence should express one precise relationship.

Worksheet 6: Edit and Craft Complex Sentences

Page 2 of 2

Name: **ANSWERS**

School-garden writing challenge

Your class is planning a small garden beside the library. The soil is dry, rain is expected, seedlings need protection, and volunteers can help after lunch.

Write four complex sentences. Make each relationship clear and vary the clause order.

1. TIME

Choices: *when, after, before, while*

Conjunction: **after**

Prompt: Explain when one garden action will happen.

Complex sentence:

After the rain stops, our class will plant the seedlings.



2. CAUSE

Choices: *because, since*

Conjunction: **because**

Prompt: Explain why one garden action is needed.

Complex sentence:

We will spread mulch because the seedlings need moisture quickly.



3. CONDITION

Choices: *if, unless*

Conjunction: **if**

Prompt: Explain the condition for success.

Complex sentence:

The garden will thrive if volunteers water it regularly.



4. CONTRAST

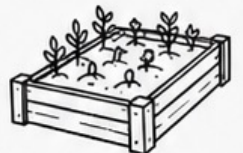
Choices: *although, even though*

Conjunction: **although**

Prompt: Show an unexpected contrast.

Complex sentence:

Although the afternoon was warm, the students finished building the border.



Self-check

- ☒ Main clause ☒ Subordinate clause ☒ Clear conjunction ☒ Comma if needed

Each sentence should express one precise relationship.

Game 1: Clause Match Relay

Page 1 of 3 | Main Clause Cards

Cut along the dashed line

Match each numbered main clause with one lettered subordinate clause.

1

the science club
tested the water

4

Mia saved
her document

7

we will start
the picnic

10

the model bridge
held firm

2

our team reached
the lookout

5

the seedlings
stayed healthy

8

the class moved
indoors

11

the choir continued
singing

3

the audience
became silent

6

the cyclist
slowed down

9

the hikers followed
the markers

12

everyone checked
the equipment

Game 1: Clause Match Relay

Page 2 of 3 | Subordinate Clause Cards

Cut along the dashed line. Match each lettered subordinate clause with one numbered main clause.

A. because the storm moved closer	B. before the computer restarted	C. although the final note was difficult
D. when the conductor raised her hands	E. because volunteers watered them each morning	F. after the steep climb ended
G. wherever the red arrows pointed	H. although extra weight was added	I. before the experiment began
J. if the weather stays dry	K. when the path became crowded	L. while the ranger recorded the results

Game 1: Clause Match Relay

Page 1 of 3 | How to Play + Relay Mat

Players: 2-4 | You need: cut cards, a timer and a pencil

HOW TO PLAY

- 1 Shuffle the main and subordinate cards into separate piles.
- 2 Each team draws one main clause card.
- 3 Search the subordinate pile for the clearest match.
- 4 Read the completed complex sentence aloud.
- 5 Name the relationship: time, cause, condition, contrast or place.
- 6 Score the match, return the cards, then race again. First to six points wins.

SCORING

- +1 correct match
- +1 clear explanation
- +1 correct comma when the subordinate clause is placed first

TEACHER MATCH KEY

1-L	2-F	3-D	4-B	5-E	6-K
7-A	8-A	9-G	10-H	11-C	12-I

RELAY MAT

1. MAIN CLAUSE CARD

Place it here.

2. SUBORDINATE CLAUSE CARD

Place it here.

3. COMPLETION + RELATIONSHIP

Name the relationship.

4. COMPLETE SENTENCE

Say it aloud. Add a comma if needed.

Game 2: Conjunction Quest

Page 1 of 2 | Game Board

Players: 2-4 | **You need:** one die, counters, the change cards

HOW TO PLAY

1. Put every counter on **START**.
2. Roll the die and move along the path.
3. Use the colour key to name your relationship.
4. Draw one challenge card and complete the task.
5. A clear answer stays. An unclear answer moves back one space.
6. The first player to reach **FINISH** wins.

BONUS: Name another conjunction for your colour and move ahead one.

RELATIONSHIP COLOUR KEY

-  **TIME** — when, before, after, while
-  **CAUSE** — because, since
-  **CONDITION** — if, unless
-  **CONTRAST** — although, even though
-  **PLACE** — where, wherever



Game 2: Conjunction Quest

Page 2 of 2 | Challenge Cards

Draw a card. Complete the task using the relationship colour where your counter landed.

CHALLENGE

1 Name two conjunctions for this relationship. 

CHALLENGE

2 Build a complex sentence with the subordinate clause first. 

CHALLENGE

3 Build a complex sentence with the main clause first. 

CHALLENGE

4 Explain what extra meaning the subordinate clause adds. 

CHALLENGE

5 Create a sentence about a class experiment. 

CHALLENGE

6 Create a sentence about a journey. 

CHALLENGE

7 Create a sentence about a surprising result. 

CHALLENGE

8 Create a sentence about a team decision. 

CHALLENGE

9 Say a main clause, then add a matching subordinate clause. 

CHALLENGE

10 Say a subordinate clause, then add a matching main clause. 

CHALLENGE

11 Reorder your sentence and keep the meaning clear. 

CHALLENGE

12 Check whether your reordered sentence needs a comma. 

CHALLENGE

13 Use a different conjunction for the same relationship. 

CHALLENGE

14 Give a correct sentence, then explain the clause boundary. 

CHALLENGE

15 Challenge another player to identify your main clause. 

CHALLENGE

16 Challenge another player to identify your subordinate clause. 

Assessment: Complex Sentence Investigation

Page 1 of 2 | 12 marks

Name: _____

Date: _____

A. Identify the main clause — 4 marks



Underline the main clause in each sentence. One mark each.

1. The stalls opened after volunteers finished setting up.
2. Although the wind was strong, the banners remained secure.
3. We will begin the performance when the stage is ready.
4. The families gathered wherever shade covered the lawn.

B. Choose the conjunction — 4 marks



Complete each sentence with the best word from the link. Use each word once. One mark each.

although because before if

1. The ice packs stayed frozen _____ they were kept in a cooler.
2. _____ the gates open, volunteers will check every stall.
3. The raffle can begin _____ all tickets are counted.
4. _____ the drizzle continued, visitors remained cheerful.

C. Edit for accuracy — 4 marks

Rewrite each sentence correctly. One mark for clause control and one mark for punctuation.

1. When the music began the crowd moved closer.

2. We covered the prizes, because rain was forecast.

Page 1 score: _____ / 12

Check clause meaning, conjunction choice and punctuation.

Assessment: Complex Sentence Investigation

Page 1 of 2 | 12 marks

Name: _____ **ANSWERS**

Date: _____

A. Identify the main clause — 4 marks



Underline the main clause in each sentence. One mark each.

1. The stalls opened after volunteers finished setting up.
2. Although the wind was strong, the banners remained secure.
3. We will begin the performance when the stage is ready.
4. The families gathered wherever shade covered the lawn.

B. Choose the conjunction — 4 marks



Complete each sentence with the best word from the link. Use each word once. One mark each.

although because before if

1. The ice packs stayed frozen because they were kept in a cooler.
2. Before the auction began, volunteers checked every stall.
3. The raffle can begin when all tickets are counted.
4. Although the rain continued, visitors remained cheerful.

C. Edit for accuracy — 4 marks

Rewrite each sentence correctly. One mark for clause control and one mark for punctuation.

1. When the music began the crowd moved closer.
When the music began, the crowd moved closer.
2. We covered the prizes, because rain was forecast.
We covered the prizes because rain was forecast.

Page 1 score: 12 / 12

Check clause meaning, conjunction choice and punctuation.

Assessment: Complex Sentence Investigation

Page 2 of 2 | 8 marks

Name: _____

Date: _____

Twilight school fair

Your class is organising a twilight school fair. The weather may change, performers need a dry stage, food stalls must follow safety rules, and volunteers can help after 4 pm.



Write one clear complex sentence for each relationship. Use the suggested conjunctions or choose another suitable one.

[], []

2 marks each: one for a clear relationship and one for accurate sentence control.

1. TIME — when, after, before, while

2. CAUSE — because, since

3. CONDITION — if, unless

4. CONTRAST — although, even though

Comma explanation

Explain when an opening subordinate clause needs a comma. This response supports teacher judgement and has no extra mark.

Page 2 score: _____ / 8

Total score: _____ / 20

Reread every sentence for meaning, structure and punctuation.

Assessment: Complex Sentence Investigation

Page 2 of 2 | 8 marks

Name: **ANSWERS**

Date: _____

Twilight school fair

Your class is organising a twilight school fair. The weather may change, performers need a dry stage, food stalls must follow safety rules, and volunteers can help after 4 pm.



Write one clear complex sentence for each relationship. Use the suggested conjunctions or choose another suitable one.

[], []

2 marks each: one for a clear relationship and one for accurate sentence control.

1. TIME — when, after, before, while

After the final bell rings, volunteers will arrange the food stalls. _____

2. CAUSE — because, since

The performers will use the hall because the stage must stay dry. _____

3. CONDITION — if, unless

The fair will continue outside if the weather remains calm. _____

4. CONTRAST — although, even though

Although the drizzle returned, visitors stayed for the concert. _____

Comma explanation

Explain when an opening subordinate clause needs a comma. This response supports teacher judgement and has no extra mark.

When a subordinate clause comes first, place a comma after it before the main clause. _____

Page 2 score: **8** / 8

Total score: **20** / 20

Reread every sentence for meaning, structure and punctuation.

Complex Sentences - Year 5 Rubric



Student: _____ Date: _____

Use the best-fit level for each criterion.

CRITERION	BEGINNING	DEVELOPING	ACHIEVING	CONFIDENT	EXCEEDING
Clause knowledge	Needs support to identify main and subordinate clauses.	Identifies some clauses but is not confident with complex clauses.	Correctly identifies main and subordinate clauses.	Explains how both clauses work together.	Analyses clause choices and their effect on meaning.
Conjunction choice	Uses conjunctions with frequent support.	Chooses a range of conjunctions for familiar relationships.	Chooses conjunctions that show clear relationships.	Selects precise conjunctions for varied relationships.	Uses conjunctions deliberately to shape emphasis and nuance.
Punctuation and clause order	Needs support with capitals, commas and clause order.	Uses some correct punctuation in familiar patterns.	Usually punctuates clauses accurately.	Controls punctuation when reordering clauses.	Uses clause order and punctuation fluently for effect.
Sentence control	Creates fragments or unclear sentence links.	Creates some complete complex sentences.	Creates clear, complete sentences.	Varies structure while keeping meaning clear.	Crafts fluent, varied sentences with precise meaning.
Editing	Needs prompts to locate sentence problems.	Fixes some errors with guidance.	Edits conjunctions, clauses and commas accurately.	Explains and improves sentence choices.	Edits independently and justifies effective choices.

Overall judgement: ☐ Beginning ☐ Developing ☐ Achieving ☐ Confident ☐ Exceeding

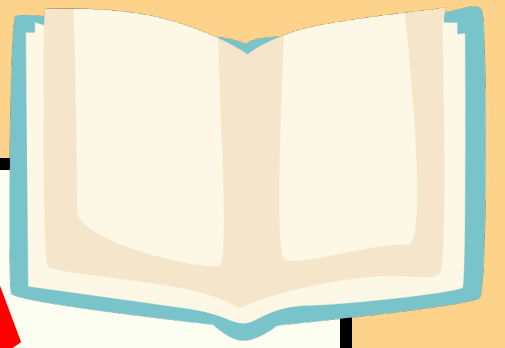
Next step: _____

Complex Sentences

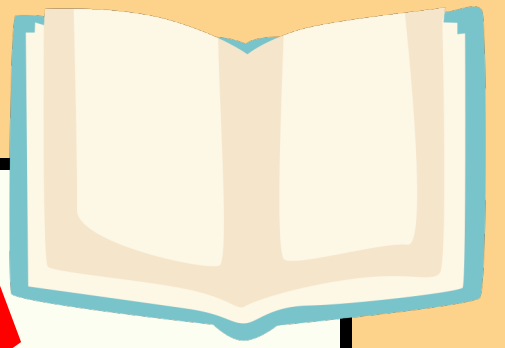


Learning Focus

- Recognise main and subordinate clauses.
- Choose subordinating conjunctions for precise meaning.
- Order and punctuate clauses accurately.
- Craft and edit clear, complex sentences.



Sentence Refresh



SIMPLE: One main clause — The crowd cheered.

COMPOUND: Two equal main clauses — The crowd cheered, and the band bowed.

COMPLEX: A main clause plus a subordinate clause — The crowd cheered when the band finished.





What Makes a Complex Sentence

A complex sentence links one main clause with at least one subordinate clause.

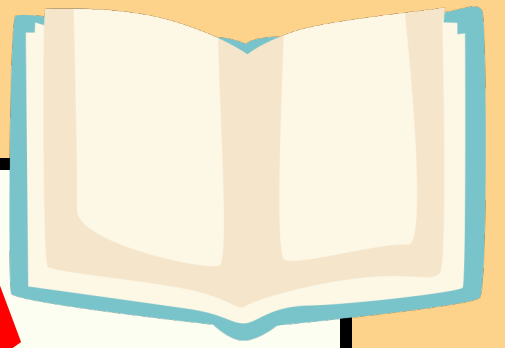
The main clause carries the complete idea.

The subordinate clause adds time, cause, condition, contrast or place.

A subordinating conjunction shows the relationship.



Main Clauses



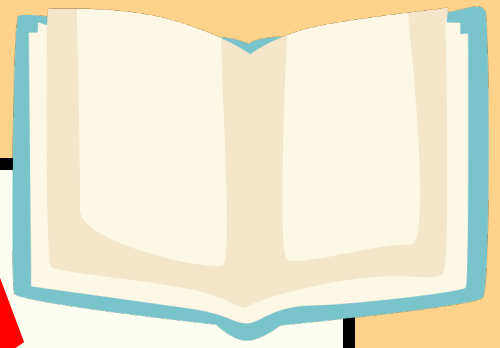
A main clause expresses a complete thought.

It contains a subject and a finite verb.

The volunteers arranged the chairs.

Quick check: can the clause stand alone and still make sense?





Subordinate Clauses

A subordinate clause adds information but cannot stand alone.

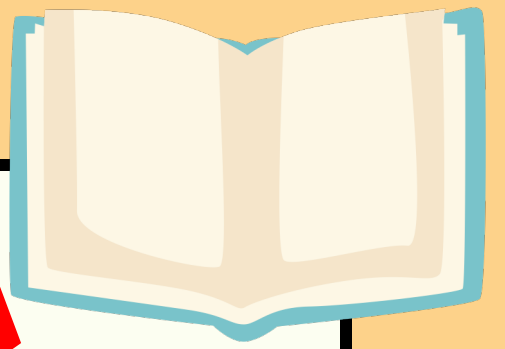
It often begins with a subordinating conjunction.

because the storm moved closer.

Quick check: Does the clause leave the reader waiting for the main idea?



Conjunction Meanings



TIME — after, before, when, while

CAUSE — because, since, as

CONDITION — if, unless

CONTRAST — though, even though, whereas

PLACE — where, wherever





Clause Order and Commas

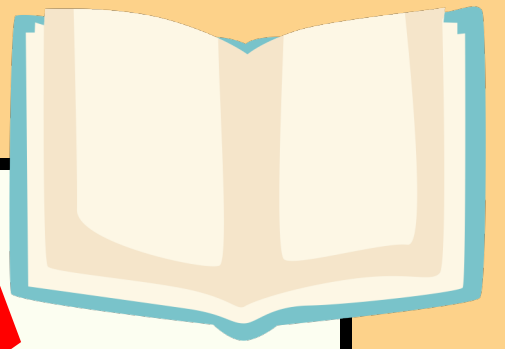
Main clause first: The class moved indoors because the wind strengthened.

A joining comma is usually needed in this order.

Subordinate clause first: Because the wind strengthened, the class moved indoors.

Put a comma after an opening subordinate clause.



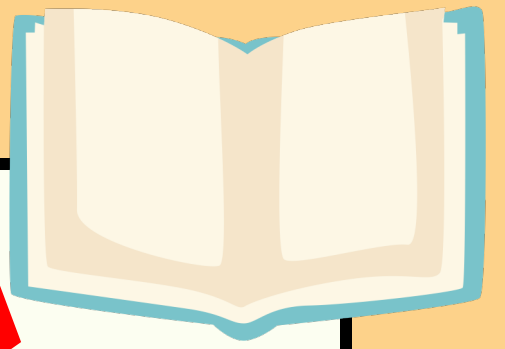


Guided Practice: Main Clauses

Find the main clause in each sentence.

1. The lanterns glowed when the sun disappeared.
2. Although the problem looked difficult, the team solved it quickly.
3. We will leave the door open if the delivery arrives soon.
4. The audience waited where the guide had asked them to stand.

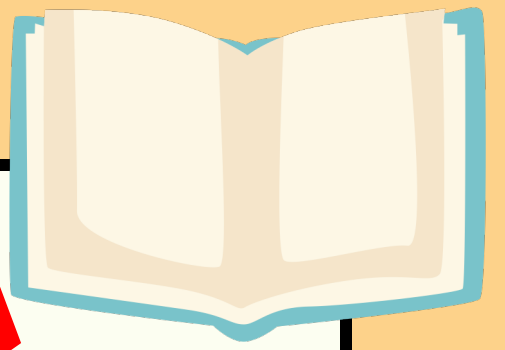




Main Clause Answers

1. The lanterns glowed
 2. the team solved it quickly
 3. We will leave the gate open
 4. The audience waits
- Each answer can stand alone as a complete idea.





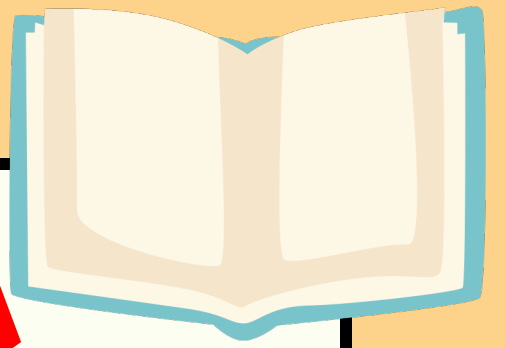
Guided Practice: Subordinate Clauses

Find the subordinate clause in each sentence.

1. Our class recorded the rainfall while the storm passed.
2. Because the lift was closed, we used the stairs.
3. The cyclists all stopped when the track becomes slippery.
4. A crowd gathered where the musicians performed.



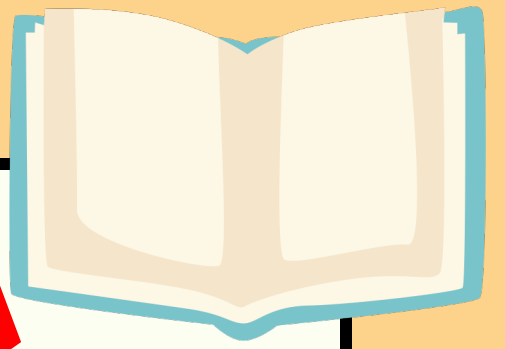
Subordinate Clause Answer



1. while the storm passed
2. Because the lift was closed
3. if the track becomes slippery
4. wherever the music is performed

Each clause adds meaning but cannot stand alone.





Choose the Conjunction

Choose the conjunction that creates a clear relationship.

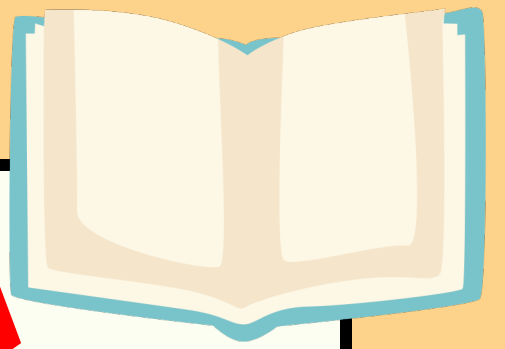
1. ____ the timer sounded, the group changed stations.
2. The plants survived ____ volunteers watered them daily.
3. We will continue outside ____ the wind becomes unsafe.
4. ____ the model was small, it showed every feature.



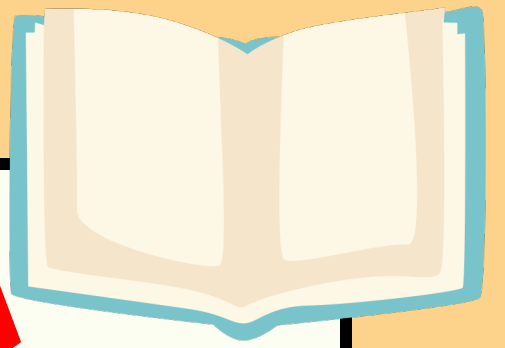
Conjunction Answers

1. When — time
2. because — cause
3. unless — condition
4. Although — contrast

A prepositional conjunction makes the relationship easy to follow.



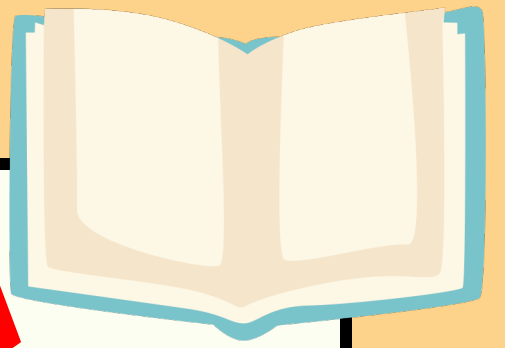
Combine the Clauses



Combine each pair into one clear, complex sentence.

1. the lanterns switched on | darkness revealed the oval
2. our team checked the map | we left the shelter
3. the robots completed the task | the battery ran low
4. brought equipment in | rain begins

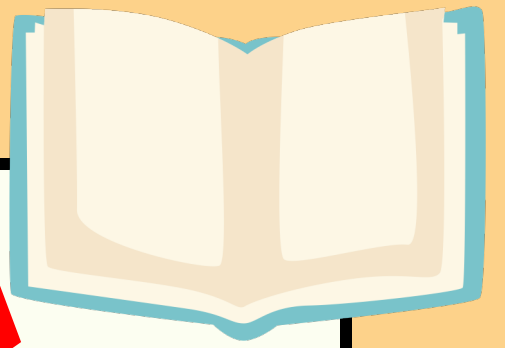




Possible Combined Sentence

1. The lanterns switched on when darkness reached the oval.
2. Our team checked the map before we entered the shelter.
3. The robots completed the task although the battery ran low.
4. Bring the equipment inside if rain begins.



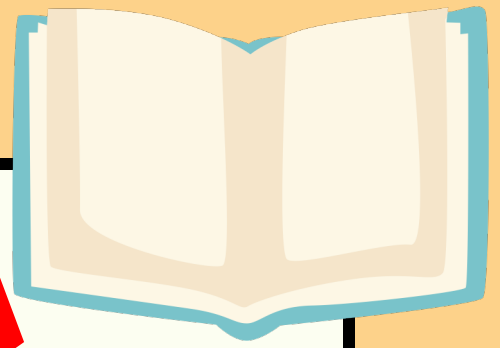


Reorder and Punctuation

Place the subordinate clause first, then add a comma.

1. The students took notes while the ranger explained the habitat.
2. The exhibition was open if every display is ready.
3. We used torches because the storeroom was dark.
4. The class remained cheerful although the bus was late.



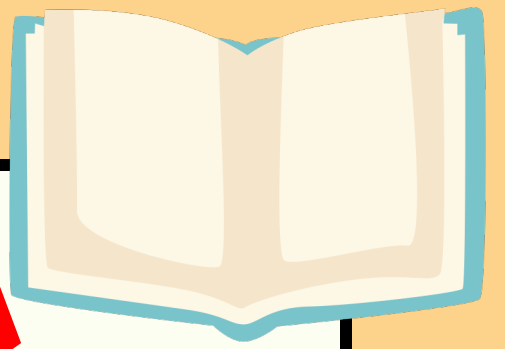


Reordered Answers

1. While the ranger explained the habitat, the students took notes.
2. If every display is ready, the exhibition will open.
3. Because the storeroom was dark, we used torches.
4. Although the bus was late, the class remained cheerful.



Independent Craft



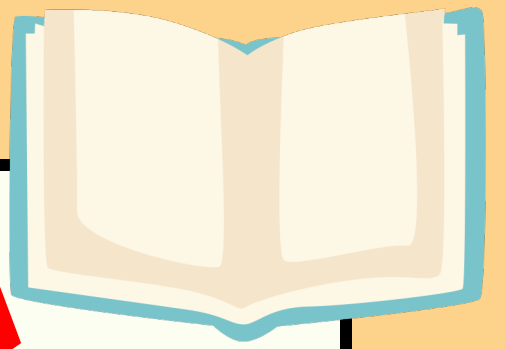
Create one complex sentence for each prompt.

- A school garden: show a cause relationship.
- A wet-weather lunch: show a contrast relationship.
- A team challenge: show a condition relationship.

Varun has a garden and check whether a comma is needed.



Complex Sentence Review



- A main clause can stand alone.
- A subordinate clause adds meaning but cannot stand alone.
- A subordinating conjunction shows the relationship.
- Clause order can change emphasis.
- An entire subordinate clause is followed by a comma.





Well Done!

PREVIEW



Complex Sentences Quiz

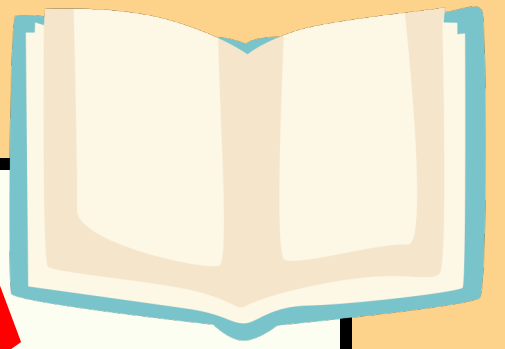


Question 1

TRUE OR FALSE

A complex sentence contains a main clause and at least one subordinate clause.





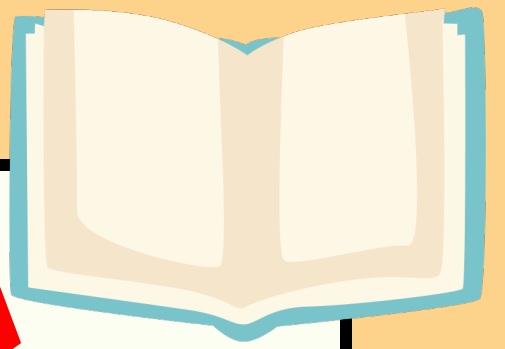
Answer 1

TRUE

The main clause carries the complete idea and the subordinate clause adds extra meaning.



Question 2



MULTIPLE CHOICE

Which words form the main clause?

Although the oval was muddy, the class continued the game.

A. Although the oval was muddy

B. the class continued the game

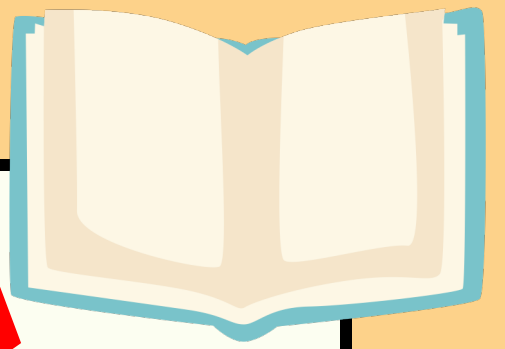
C. the oval was muddy

D. Although the oval

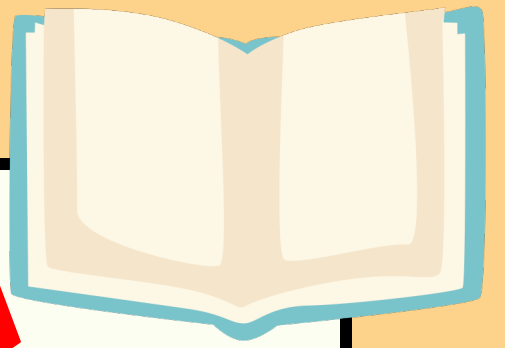


Answer 2

B. the class continued the game
This clause makes sense on its own.



Question 3



SHORT ANSWER

Why can this word group not stand alone as a complete sentence?

because the bus arrived late



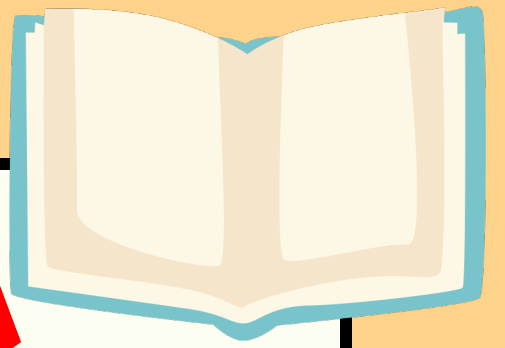
Answer 3

It is a subordinate clause.

The conjunction because makes the reader wait for the main idea.



Question 4



MULTIPLE CHOICE

Choose the best conjunction for a cause relationship.

We moved indoors _____ the sun grew stronger.

A. although

B. because

C. unless

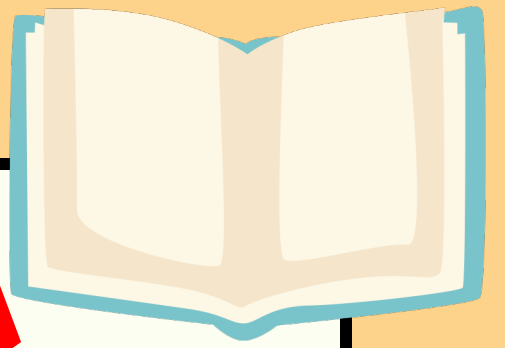
D. whenever



Answer 4

B. because

Because explains why the group moved floors.



Question 5

TRUE OR FALSE

A comma is usually needed after a subordinate clause that begins a complex sentence.



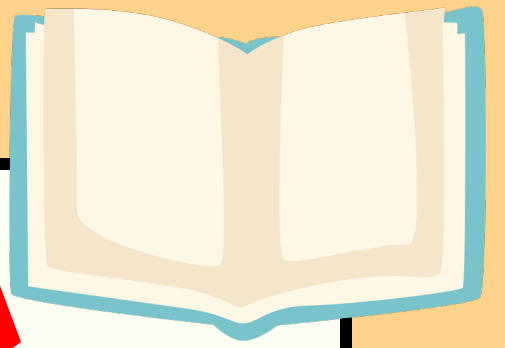
Answer 5

TRUE

The comma marks the boundary before the main clause begins.



Question 6



SHORT ANSWER

Combine these clauses into one complex sentence.

The seedlings survived. | They were watered each morning.



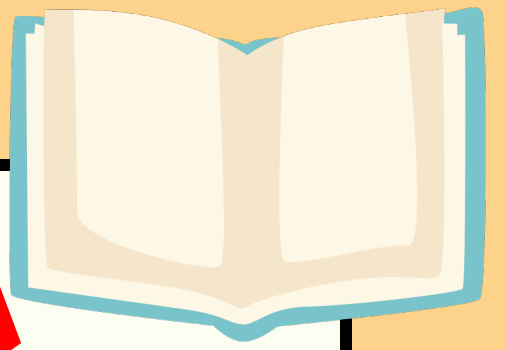
Answer 6

Suggested answer:

The seedlings survived because they were watered each morning.



Question 7



MULTIPLE CHOICE

Which words form the subordinating clause?

Mia checked the map before the group left the track.

- A. Mia checked
- B. Mia checked the map
- C. before the group left the track
- D. the group left



Answer 7

C. before the group left the track

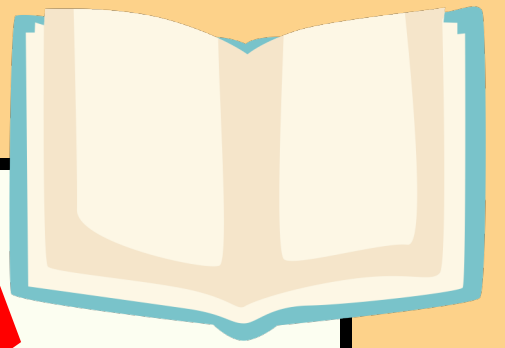
The clause adds time information and cannot stand alone.



Question 8

TRUE OR FALSE

The conjunction although usually signals contrast.



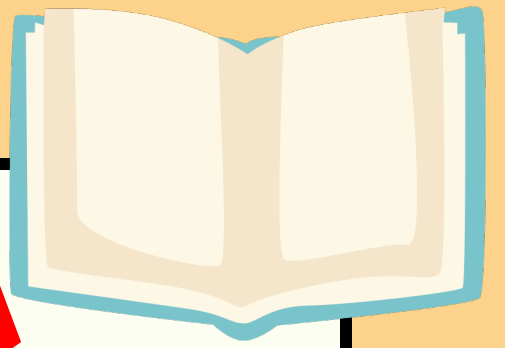
Answer 8

TRUE

Although links ideas that differ or create an unexpected contrast.



Question 9



MULTIPLE CHOICE

Choose the correctly punctuated sentence.

- A. When the bell rang the audience became quiet.
- B. When the bell rang, the audience became quiet.
- C. When, the bell rang the audience became quiet.
- D. When the bell, rang the audience became quiet.

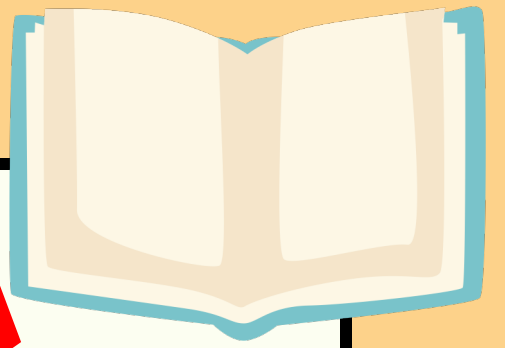


Answer 9

B. When the bell rang, the audience became quiet.
The comma follows the opening subordinate clause.



Question 10



SHORT ANSWER

Rewrite the sentence so the subordinate clause comes first.

We will start the experiment when everyone is ready.



Answer 10

When everyone is ready, we will start the experiment.

The comma separates the opening subordinate clause from the main clause.





Well Done!

PREVIEW

