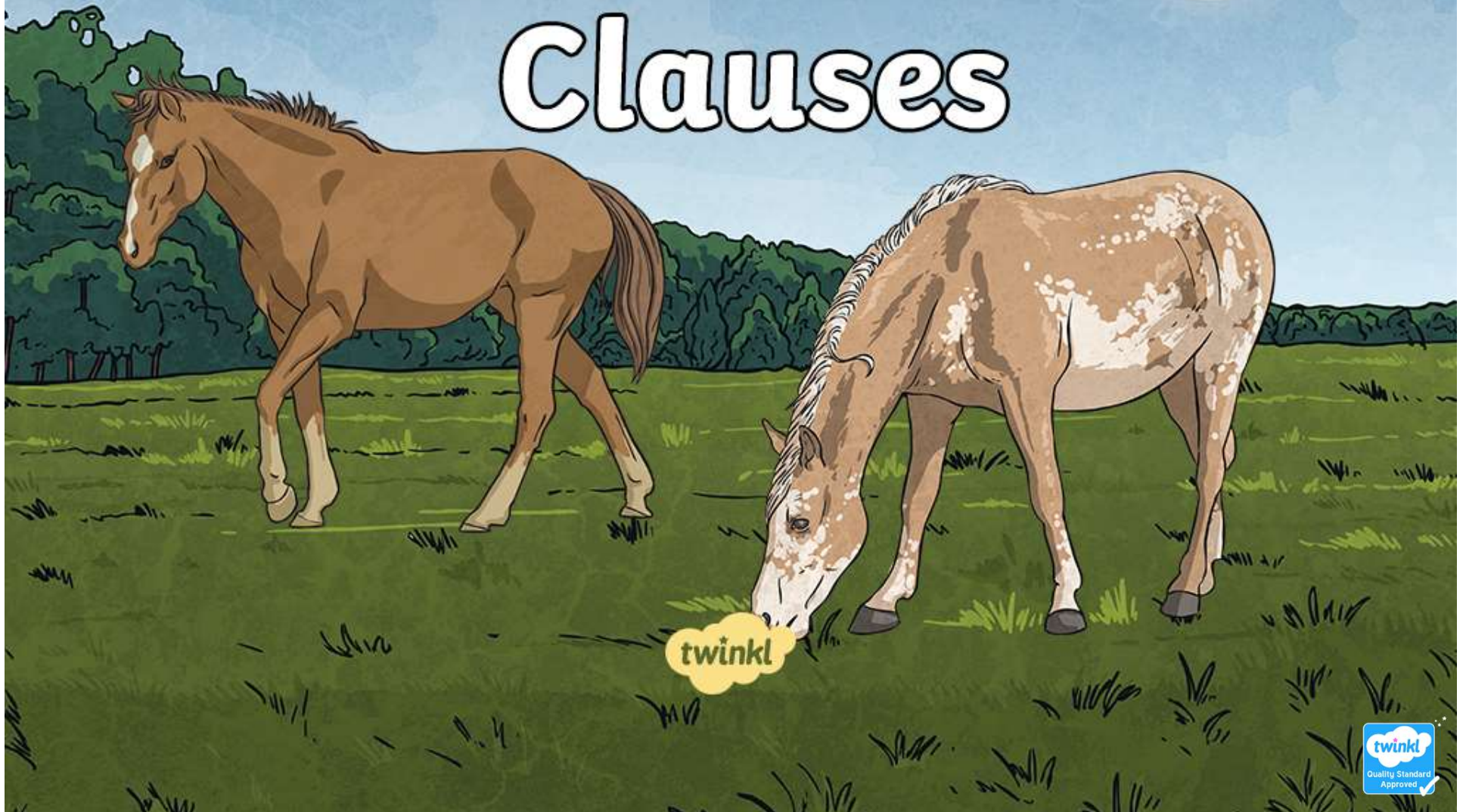


Using Subordinate Clauses



What is a clause?

A clause is a group of words that includes a subject and a verb.

There are two types of clauses, **independent clauses** and **subordinate clauses**.

The **independent clause** makes sense on its own because it is a complete thought.

For example:
I went to town.
It was red.

A **subordinate clause** supports the independent clause. The opening words of subordinate clauses show that they are dependent on the independent clause.

For example:
after the storm cleared
because he didn't like chocolate

The Subordinate Clause

A subordinate clause can come at various points in a sentence.

You might use one at the **front** of a sentence.
For example, a **fronted adverbial** can be a type of subordinate clause:

Like a bullet speeding through the air, he ran through the door.

You might want to use one at the **end** of the sentence:

She went straight home after school **because she needed an early tea.**

Sometimes they even come in the **middle** of sentences:

My brother Richard, **who lives in Australia**,
is coming home for Christmas.

When to Use a Comma

Sometimes you will need to use a comma to mark where your subordinate clause is. Here are some general rules to help you know when to use commas.

If the subordinate clause starts the sentence, use a comma after it. If it ends the sentence do not use a comma.

Before we go swimming, we have to go to school.
We have to go to school **before we go swimming**.

If the subordinate clause is adding additional information in the middle of your sentence, put commas before and after it. If you could put parentheses () around your clause, it needs commas.

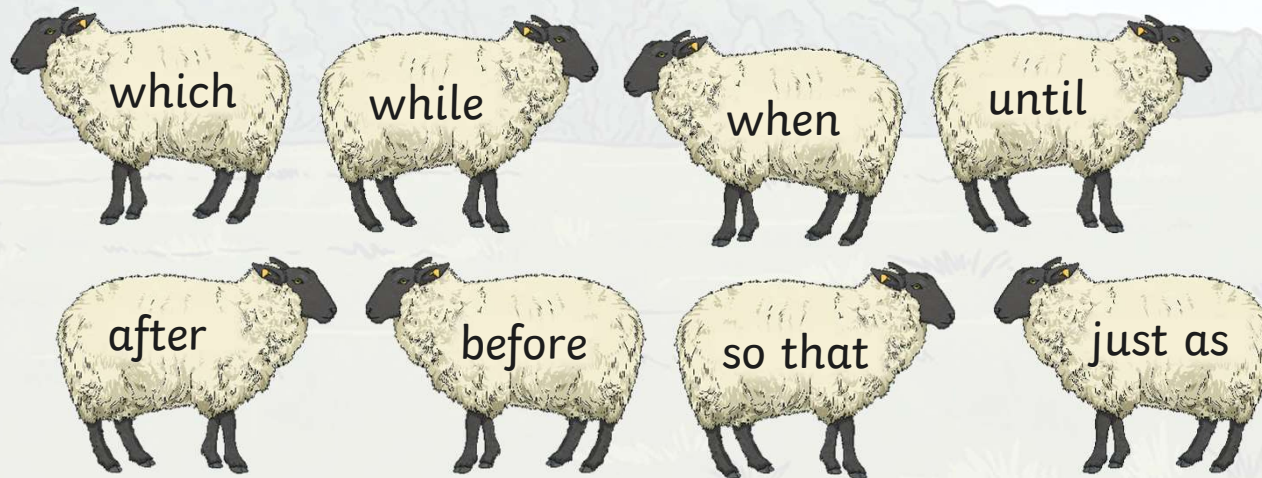
Tomorrow morning, **when the clock strikes nine**, school will begin.

Conjunctions

Conjunctions are used to start subordinate clauses.
Here is a collection of conjunctions.

Can you use the conjunctions to make subordinate clauses
for this sentence?

She walked for an hour.



For example: **After she had eaten lunch**, she walked for an hour.

