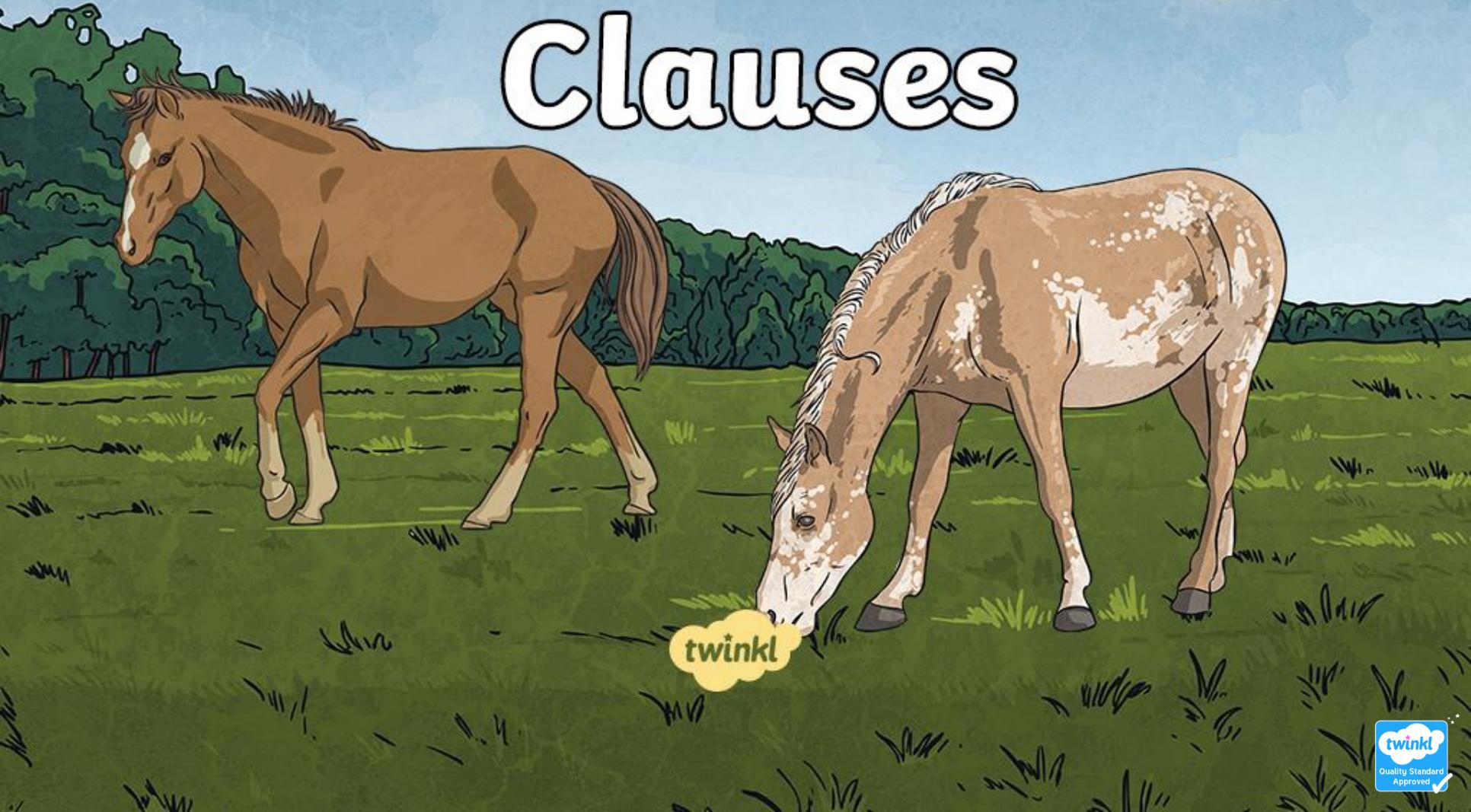


# Using Subordinate Clauses



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# 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.

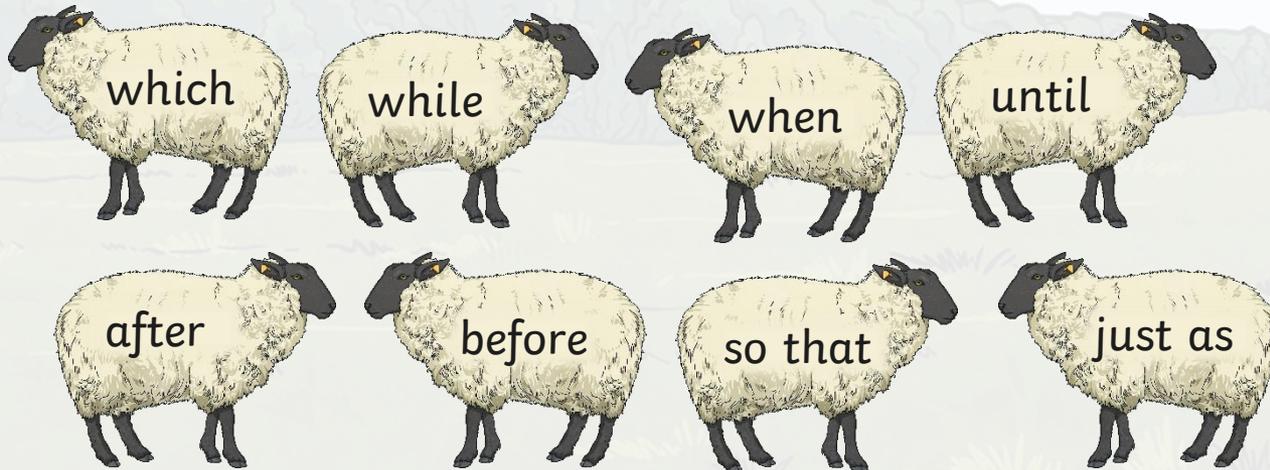
Tomorrow morning, **when the clock strikes nine**, school will begin.

# Conjunctions

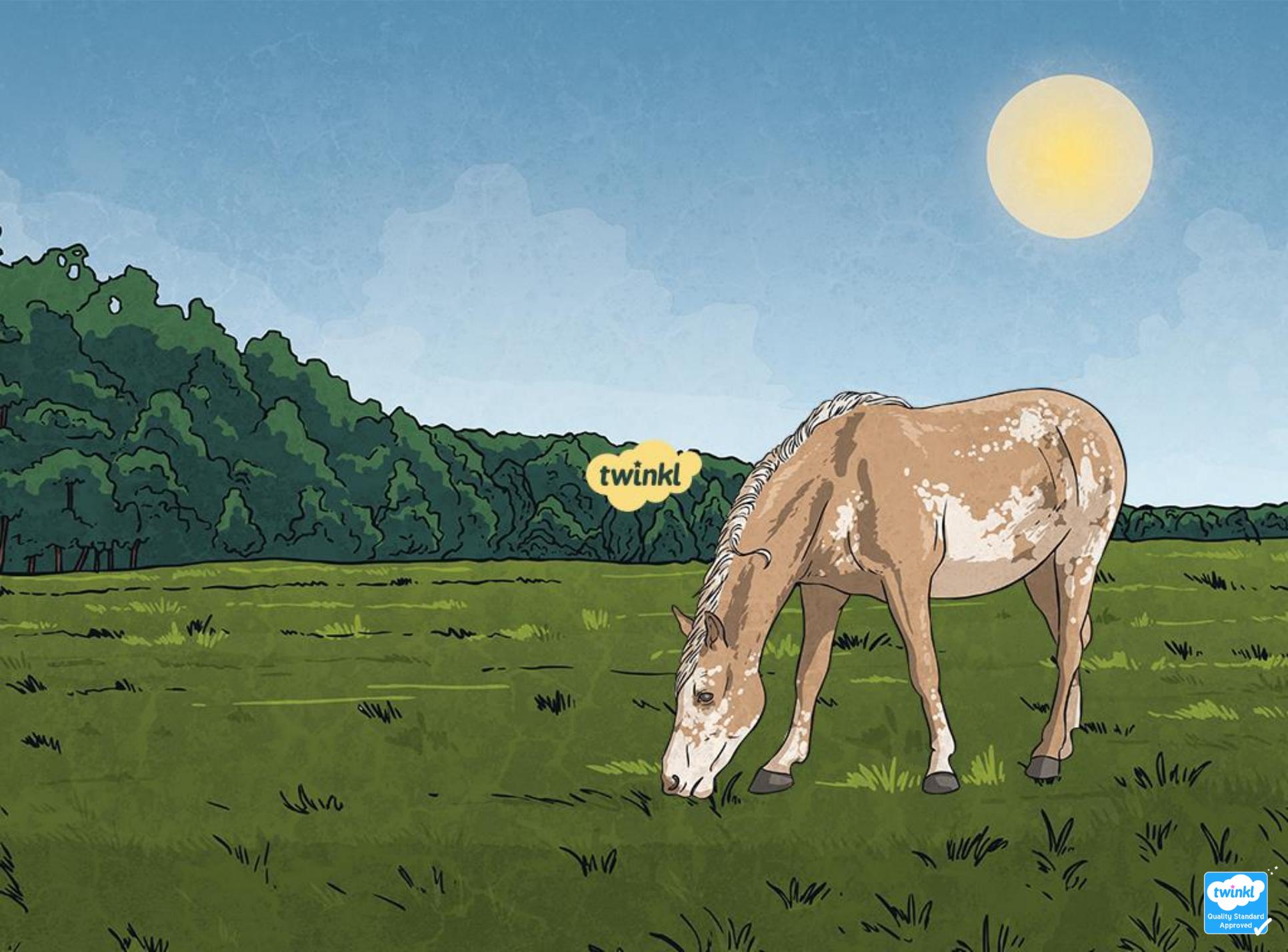
Conjunctions are used to start subordinate clauses.  
Here is a collection of conjunctions.

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.



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