

Year 5 Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar

Parenthesis Warm-Up



What Is Parenthesis?

Parenthesis is the addition of extra information or an afterthought in our writing.

It can be a word, phrase or clause marked with brackets, dashes or commas.

When a parenthesis is removed, the sentence still makes grammatical sense.

e.g. I moved to Sheffield in 2011 (when I was six years old).

still makes sense as:

I moved to Sheffield in 2011.

Parenthesis Punctuation

There are three possible ways to punctuate parenthesis.

Can you tell your partner the three possible ways to punctuate parenthesis?

- Commas

,

- Brackets

()

- dashes

—



Brackets to Show Parenthesis



Round Brackets



Types of Brackets

There are two main kinds of brackets, both of which come in pairs – round brackets () and square brackets []. We are going to focus on round brackets.

CAUTION!

A round bracket is also known as a parenthesis.
Parenthesis can also mean a word, phrase or clause inserted into a sentence which is grammatically complete without it.

To help us to be clear, we will call () round brackets and call the additional word or phrase a 'parenthesis'.

Round Brackets



Parentheses are words, phrases or clauses inserted into sentences which are grammatically complete without them.

The information, which can be removed and the sentence still make sense, goes inside the brackets.

Example: Andrew (our best goalkeeper) saved the goal.

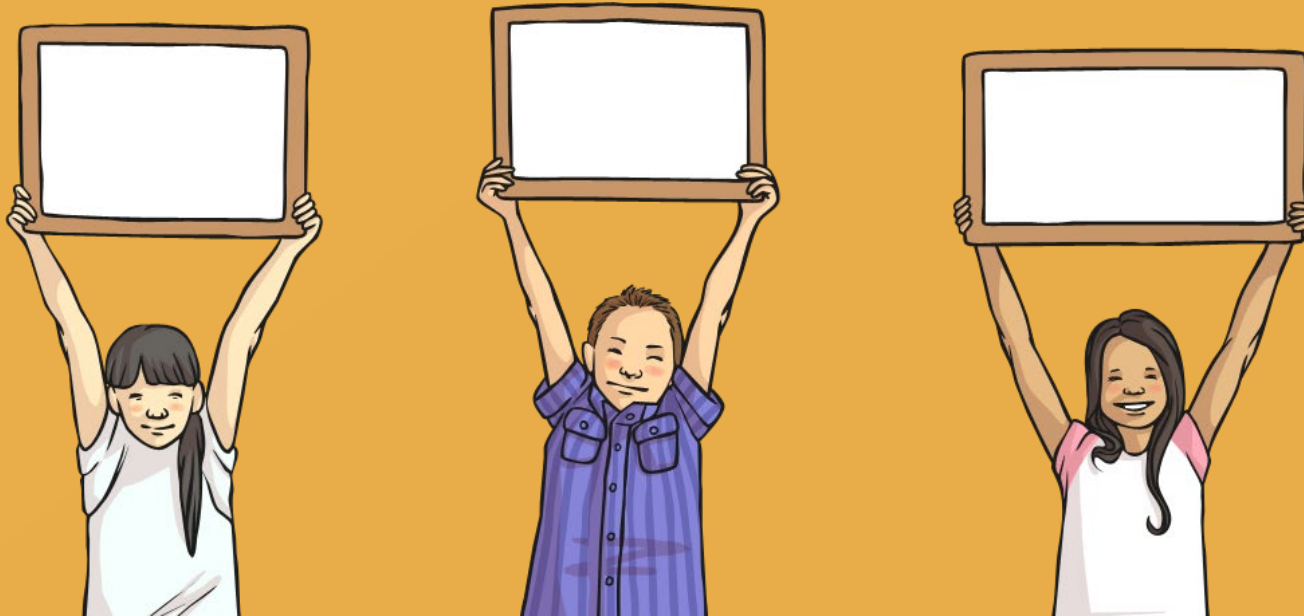


Round Brackets for Extra Detail



Let's Have a Practise.

We will use the Brackets for Parenthesis Powerpoint Quiz to help us understand how to use brackets correctly.



Brackets for Parenthesis Quiz



Which sentence shows the brackets put into the correct place to indicate parenthesis?

She knows (although she daren't come forward) that it was all her fault.

She knows although she daren't come forward (that it was all her fault).

She knows although (she daren't come forward) that it was all her fault.

Which sentence shows the brackets put into the correct place to indicate parenthesis?

Isobel (Isobel White), not Isobel Greene, injured her knee in P.E today.

Isobel (Isobel White, not Isobel Greene), injured her knee in P.E today.

Isobel White, (not Isobel Greene), injured her knee in P.E today.

Which sentence shows the brackets put into the correct place to indicate parenthesis?

Although she says she's not a bully and we all know she is (she tripped up another girl on the playground).

Although she says she's not a bully (and we all know she is) she tripped up another girl on the playground.

Although she says she's not a bully and (we all know she is) she tripped up another girl on the playground.

Which sentence shows the brackets put into the correct place to indicate parenthesis?

The smallest of the puppies the one (they called Toby) bounded over to fetch his ball.

The smallest of the puppies the one they called Toby bounded over (to fetch his ball.)

The smallest of the puppies (the one they called Toby) bounded over to fetch his ball.

Which sentence shows the brackets put into the correct place to indicate parenthesis?

They I mean the ogres were fed up (of their damp, mossy cave.)

They I mean (the ogres) were fed up of their damp, mossy cave.

They (I mean the ogres) were fed up of their damp, mossy cave.

Which sentence shows the brackets put into the correct place to indicate parenthesis?

She brought her sister who (she doesn't normally like) some fudge back from the seaside.

She brought her sister (who she doesn't normally like) some fudge back from the seaside.

She brought her sister who she doesn't normally like some fudge (back from the seaside).

Quiet Parenthesis



Let's focus on those quiet parentheses. You use them to surround something that seems a bit out of place in the sentence—an aside, an extra detail, or an intrusion. You can add the information into the brackets to change the impact of the sentence.

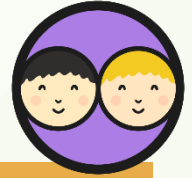
Sentence without brackets – That morning he dressed in a grey tracksuit and trainers.

Aside - That morning (which was to change his life forever) he dressed in a tracksuit and trainers.

Extra detail - That morning he dressed in tracksuit (new, grey) and trainers.

An authorial intrusion – That morning he dressed in a tracksuit (he was as fit as a fiddle) and trainers.

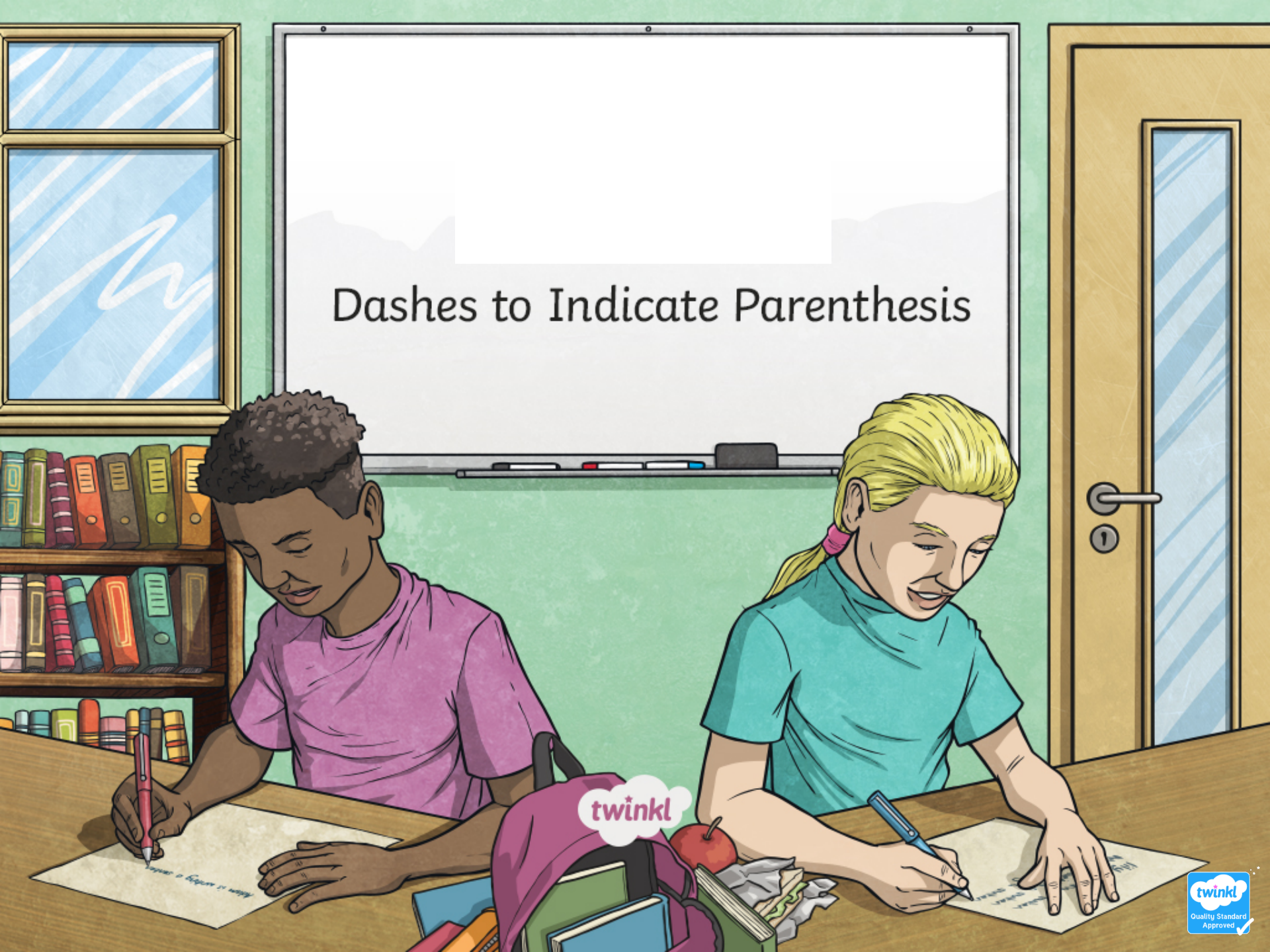
Other Uses for Round Brackets



Remember- Parentheses are words, phrases or clauses inserted into sentences which are grammatically complete without them. Here are some ways that information, which could be removed and the sentence still make sense, can be added using round brackets:

1. An extra detail – The passenger train (which was late) pulled up at the station.
2. To offer the reader an aside – I'm heading out (movie night), but I'll call you in the morning.
3. An authorial intrusion – Trainspotting (what a unique past time) was her favourite hobby.
4. A list which interrupts a sentence – The three busiest train stations in Great Britain (Waterloo, Victoria, Liverpool Street) are all based in London.
5. A date, or the birth and death of a person – William Tate (February 1798 – 20 April 1873) was the architect who designed Waterloo Bridge Station.
6. A Latin name used after a common name – The film 'My Fair Lady' opens with Eliza Doolittle selling violets (violas) outside Covent Garden.

Dashes to Indicate Parenthesis



The Double Dash



Definition of a Dash

Dashes can perform a similar function to brackets, surrounding additional information in a sentence.

Example: The train – which was late – was heading to Paris.

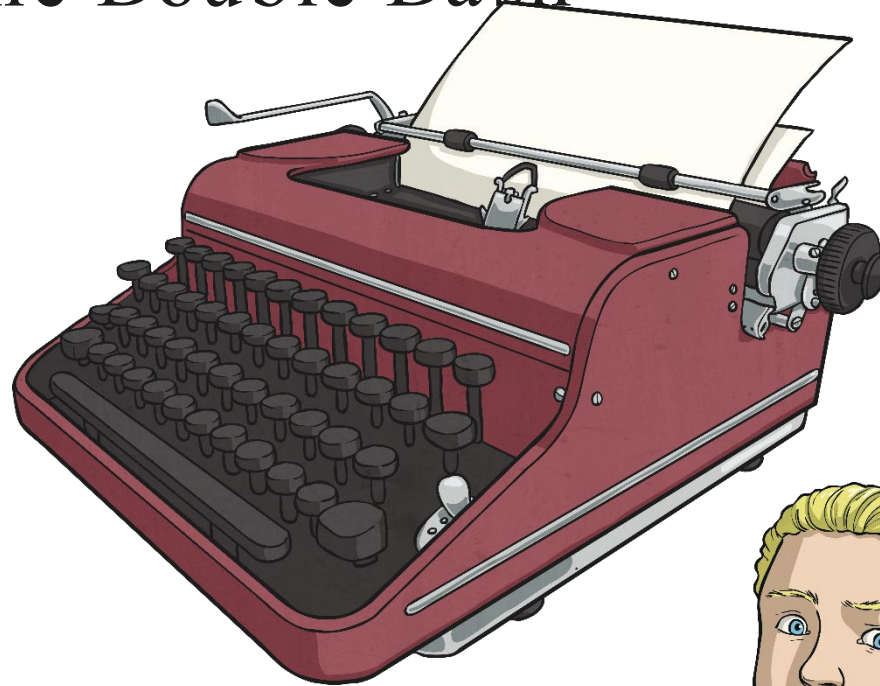
Take care not to confuse dashes and hyphens.

Dashes are long marks (–). They are used between words, with a space either side.

Hyphens are short marks (-). They are used in the middle of words with no spaces.

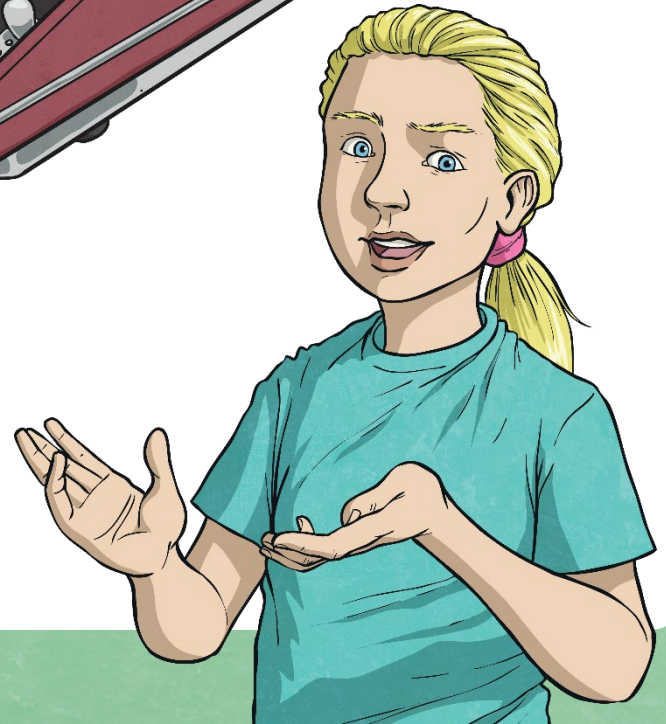


The Double Dash



Interesting Fact

On old-fashioned typewriters, two hyphens typed one after the other were used instead of a dash.



The Double Dash



We use a dash to add additional information. This extra information is called a parenthesis.

When a parenthesis is completely removed, the sentence is still grammatically correct.

Example:

The man was plainly dressed in a black suit.

A parenthesis can be separated from the rest of the sentence by commas, dashes, or brackets (all called parentheses).



The Double Dash



Two dashes can mark out extra information inserted into a sentence which is grammatically complete without it, similar to brackets.

Example

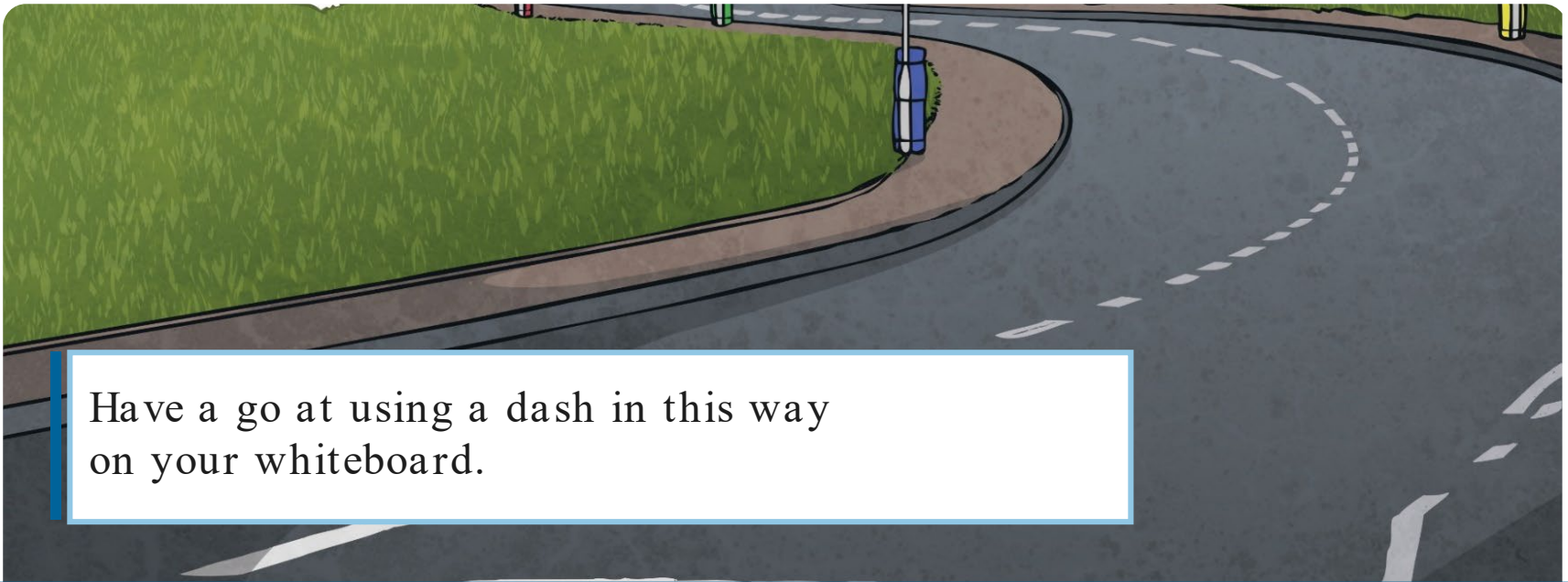
James Bond – though I can't quite believe how – jumped straight over the car, rolled and ran off into the woods.

The dashes here add extra information to the sentence like brackets would, but they draw more attention to what has been added.

The Double Dash



Two dashes can mark out extra information inserted into a sentence which is grammatically complete without it, similar to brackets.



Have a go at using a dash in this way on your whiteboard.

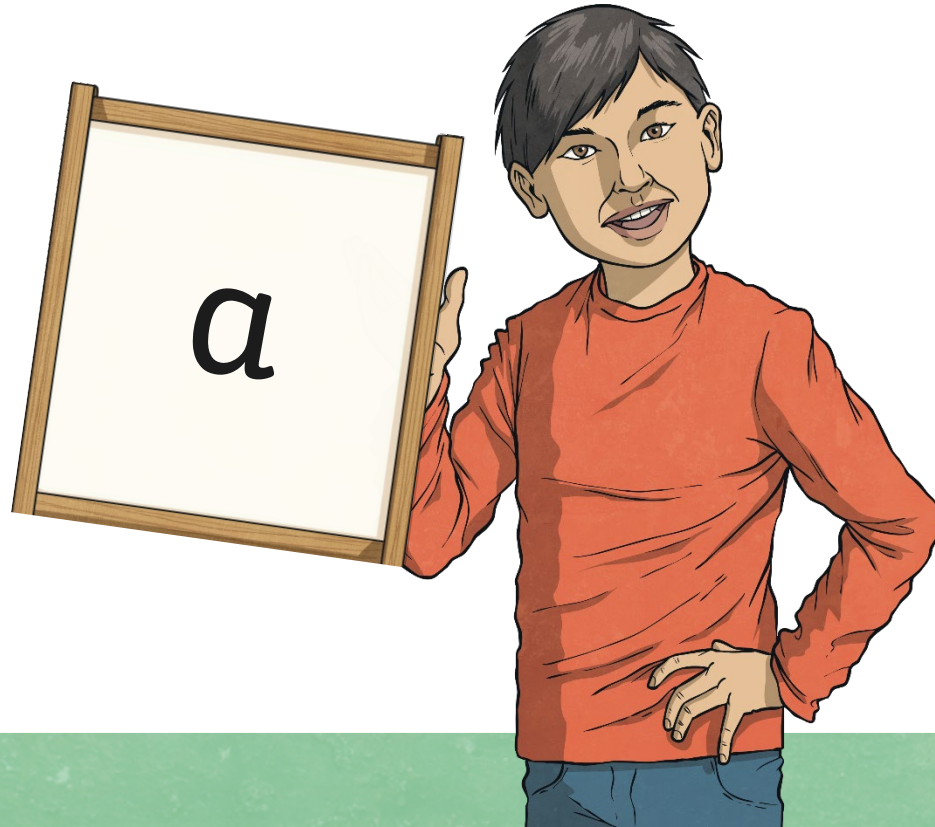
Task: Create a sentence about James Bond which uses dashes to add parenthesis.

The Double Dash



Now, let's play the Dashes for Parenthesis Quiz.

Show the answers to the questions on your whiteboard. Write the correct letter on your board to show the correct answer – a, b or c.



Which sentence correctly uses dashes for parenthesis?

Click to see if each sentence correctly uses dashes for parenthesis.

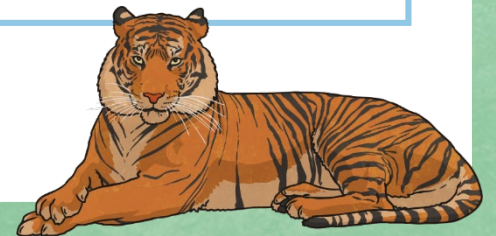
a) Sumatran tigers sadly now in danger of extinction – can swim very well because – their paws are webbed.



b) Sumatran tigers sadly now – in danger of extinction – can swim very well because their paws are webbed.



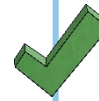
c) Sumatran tigers – sadly now in danger of extinction – can swim very well because their paws are webbed.



Which sentence correctly uses dashes for parenthesis?

Click to see if each sentence correctly uses dashes for parenthesis.

a) Zebras – well known for their black and white stripes – can reach speeds of 40 miles per hour when running.



b) Zebras well known for their black and white stripes – can reach speeds of 40 miles per hour – when running.



c) Zebras well known – for their black and white stripes – can reach speeds of 40 miles per hour when running.



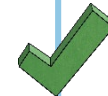
Which sentence correctly uses dashes for parenthesis?

Click to see if each sentence correctly uses dashes for parenthesis.

a) Meerkats those extraordinary digging creatures – live together – in large groups.



b) Meerkats – those extraordinary digging creatures – live together in large groups.



c) Meerkats – those extraordinary digging creatures live together – in large groups.



Which sentence correctly uses dashes for parenthesis?

Click to see if each sentence correctly uses dashes for parenthesis.

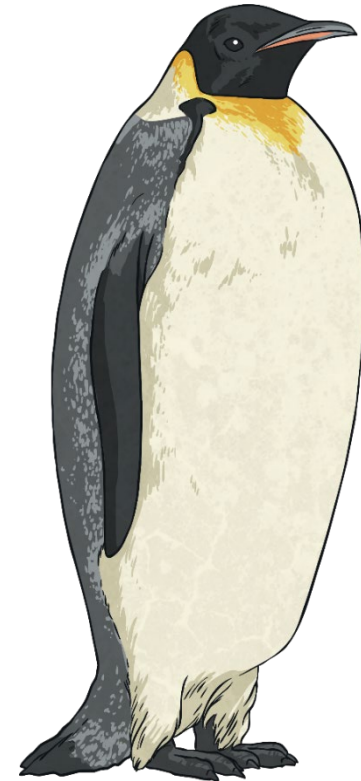
a) Penguins – despite being unable to breathe underwater – spend very little time on land.



b) Penguins – despite being unable to – breathe underwater spend very little time on land.



c) Penguins despite being unable to breathe – underwater – spend very little time on land.



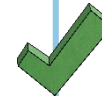
Which sentence correctly uses dashes for parenthesis?

Click to see if each sentence correctly uses dashes for parenthesis.

a) Many types – of monkey such as howler monkeys, spider monkeys, squirrel monkeys and marmosets – live in the Amazon rainforest.



b) Many types of monkey – such as howler monkeys, spider monkeys, squirrel monkeys and marmosets – live in the Amazon rainforest.



c) Many types of monkey such as howler monkeys – spider monkeys, squirrel monkeys and marmosets live – in the Amazon rainforest.



Which sentence correctly uses dashes for parenthesis?

Click to see if each sentence correctly uses dashes for parenthesis.

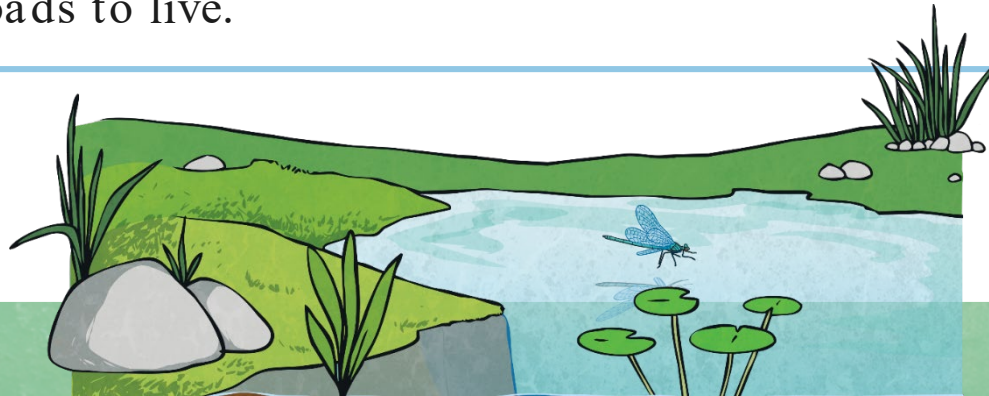
a) Damp environments compost heaps are perfect– are the best – places for toads to live.



b) Damp environments compost heaps – are perfect are the best places – for toads to live.



c) Damp environments – compost heaps are perfect – are the best places for toads to live.



Which sentence correctly uses dashes for parenthesis?

Click to see if each sentence correctly uses dashes for parenthesis.

a) My favourite animal – and there are many animals which I adore – would have to be a hedgehog!



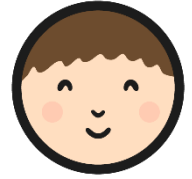
b) My favourite animal and there are many animals – which I adore – would have to be a hedgehog!



c) My favourite animal and – there are many animals which I adore would have to be – a hedgehog!



The Dramatic Dash



The dash is a punctuation mark which can be used when you want to emphasise additional information.

Example

It was a long wait – perhaps the longest of his life.

The sentence would still make sense without the part after the dash.

one dash is required if the parenthesis comes at the end of a sentence. A dash found by itself can be used

There should be a space before and after the dash.

the sentence.

This information creates a surprise at the end of the sentence.

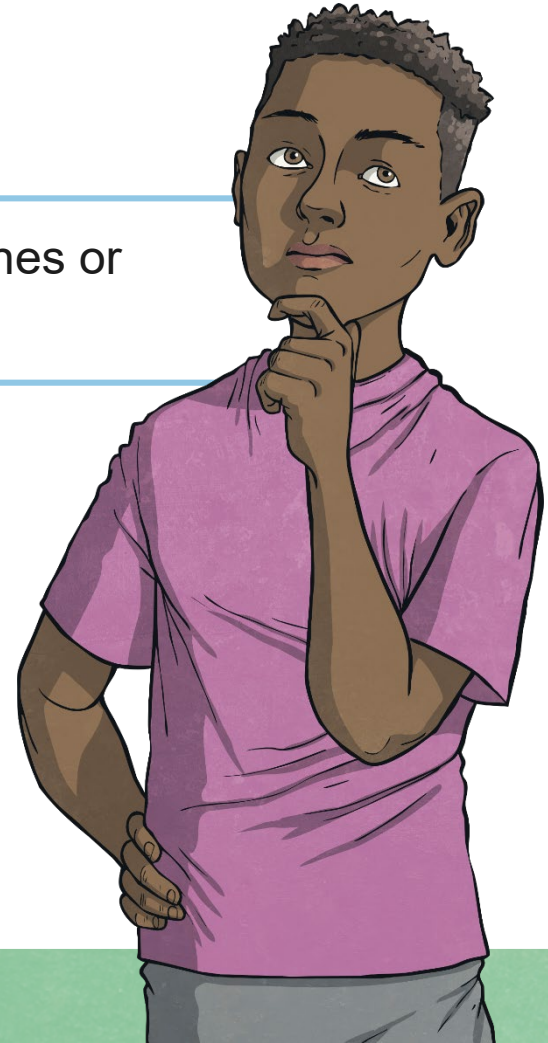
The idea is to shock or surprise the reader at the very end of the sentence.



The Difference Between Dashes, Brackets and Paired Commas



How do you know whether to use brackets, dashes or paired commas?



The Difference Between Dashes, Brackets and Paired Commas



Think about these three sentences:

Miss Money Penny (who had travelled from America to England to see James) said the mission was a huge success.

Miss Money Penny, who had travelled from America to England to see James, said the mission was a huge success.

Miss Money Penny – who had travelled from America to England to see James – said the mission was a huge success.



What is the difference between the three?

The Difference Between Dashes, Brackets and Paired Commas

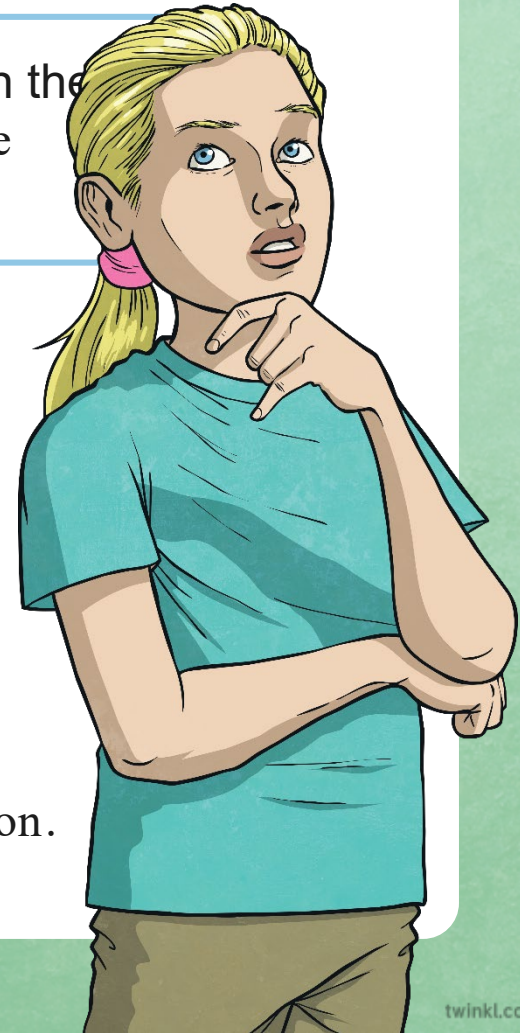


The choice of dashes, brackets or commas depends on the level of importance of the additional information in the middle of the sentence.

Use brackets when the information is an aside or non-essential to the reader.

Use commas when the information is of (roughly) equal priority to other facts in the sentence, and is something you'd like your reader to note and know.

Use dashes when you want to emphasise the information.



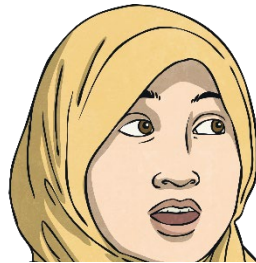
The Difference Between Dashes, Brackets and Paired Commas



Discuss

Why do you think the writer wanted the information between the dashes emphasised?

Miss Money Penny – who had travelled from America to England to see James – said the mission was a huge success.



- ✓ Alternatively, it may be intended to reflect the strong relationship between James and Miss Money Penny.

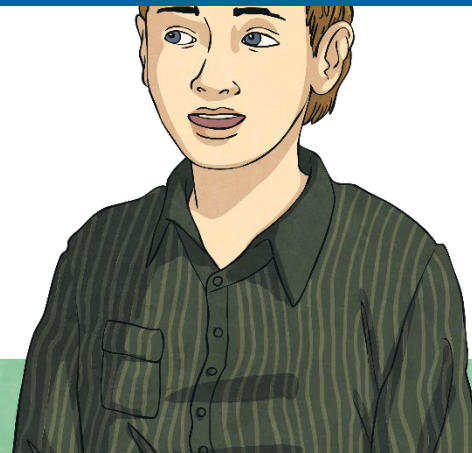
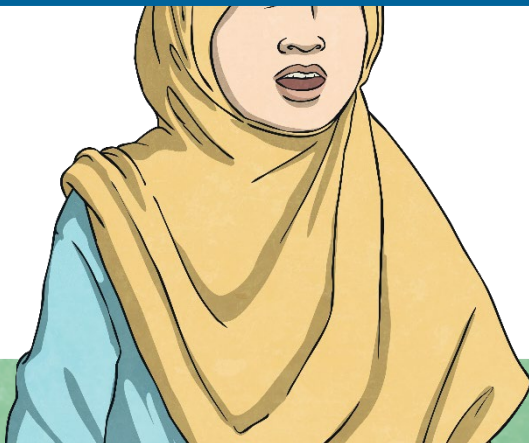


The Difference Between Dashes, Brackets and Paired Commas



Possible Answers

- ✓ The writer might be trying to convey the sense that the mission was so highly regarded, so worthwhile, that somebody made the effort to travel a long distance to congratulate James.



The Difference Between Dashes, Brackets and Paired Commas



Use brackets when the information is an aside or non-essential to the reader.

Use commas when the information is of (roughly) equal priority to other facts in the sentence, and is something you'd like your reader to note and know.

Use dashes when you want to emphasise the information.



The Difference Between Dashes, Brackets and Paired Commas



Work in pairs to present the three sentences. Think about how the different punctuation would affect the way the sentence is read.

- ✓ James Bond, who had saved hundreds of lives, was rewarded for his successful mission.
- ✓ James Bond - who had saved hundreds of lives - was rewarded for his successful mission.
- ✓ James Bond (who had saved hundreds of lives) was rewarded for his successful mission.

Adding Parenthesis

Write sentences about these pictures where you add a parenthesis:



Ready for action, Superman (**wearing his trademark red cape**) called his friends to join him in the fight against evil.



Supergirl showed the way – **despite being completely lost** – to find the villains.

Adding Parenthesis

Make this story setting more exciting and interesting with the addition of **parenthesis**. There are a few hints but you might want to add your own excellent ideas...

The Adventures of Beetle Boy

By day, Beetle Boy is a normal boy [hint: what is his name?] who attends a normal primary school. But by night, he becomes the toughest superhero the world has ever seen [hint: compare him to another superhero] and spends his time fighting villains. His shell is so strong [hint: what is his shell made out of?] that he is able to withstand anything hitting him [hint: give an example] without even the slightest bruising.

If his friends ever realised the amazing powers he has [hint: describe some of his powers], Beetle Boy would be asked to show them off every day at school. He knows that, as a superhero, he has sworn to keep his super powers a secret [hint: explain how this makes him feel] and use them only to protect the world from evil.

Adding Parenthesis Answers

Make this story setting more exciting and interesting with the addition of **parenthesis**. There are a few hints but you might want to add your own excellent ideas...

The Adventures of Beetle Boy

By day, Beetle Boy is a normal boy, **called Billy**, who attends a normal primary school. But by night, he becomes the toughest superhero the world has ever seen—**even stronger than Iron Man** — and spends his time fighting villains. His shell is so strong (**possibly made out of space rock**) that he is able to withstand anything hitting him — **even a bullet** — without even the slightest bruising.

If his friends ever realised the amazing powers he has (**super strength, flying and walking up walls being just three of the many**) , Beetle Boy would be asked to show them off every day at school. He knows that, as a superhero, he has sworn to keep his super powers a secret, **which he doesn't always find very easy**, and use them only to protect the world from evil.

twinkl

