

Use Brackets, Dashes or Commas to Indicate Parenthesis Lesson Ideas

Parenthesis Markers

- Look for parenthesis markers in your shared texts, either as a whole class or with guided groups. Make sure your pupils can identify which noun/noun phrase or clause is being extended by the parenthetical phrase.

Differentiation:

- Higher ability writers should be looking out for all 3 punctuation types, including where there is only a single dash or or comma because the parenthesis forms the end of the sentence. Lower ability writers will find it easier to find (and, probably, use) brackets. They may need more guidance to spot where a comma is being used to demarcate parenthesis, or the difference between a hyphen and a dash.

Relative Clauses

- Relate parenthesis to work you may have done already on relative clauses. Check out our fabulous relative clause resources [here!](#)

Differentiation:

- More able pupils will be using a wide range of relative pronouns, although weaker writers may need more practise with who and which.

Punctuation Characters

- Give out brackets, commas and dashes from our fun [Punctuation Character Pack](#). As you are reading a shared text on the board, stop and ask for extra information about a noun/noun phrase you have highlighted. Children say their new phrase, bookended by holding up the correct punctuation marks.

Differentiation:

- Give characters out to individuals or pairs, depending on ability.

Human Sentences

- In groups, build a human sentence (there's one to start you off in our [Grammatical Consistency Teaching Pack](#)) then add parenthesis to it.

Differentiation:

- Have our [Stretch Your Sentence Poster](#) visible to inspire anyone who's struggling with what sort of information they might add to the noun phrase.

Punctuating Parenthesis

- Use our super [Punctuating Parenthesis Activity Sheets](#) for independent practise.

Differentiation:

- *** Add extra information, and work out where the given parenthesis belongs.
- ** Add extra information.
- * As for **, with hints about what to write (brackets only).
- SEN: Physically fit the parenthesis into the given sentence they've built.

Morning Work Task

- As a morning work task, write a simple sentence on the board and challenge the class to add a parenthesis to it.

Differentiation:

- Expect more children to give a variety of parentheses, or to add information to more than one noun phrase.

Use Brackets to Show Parenthesis (Extra Information)

Sometimes we want to add a bit of extra information to a sentence as an afterthought. If we left out this extra word or phrase, the main sentence would still make sense. This is called parenthesis. There's an example of parenthesis in the title of this worksheet!

For each of these sentences, can you add a parenthesis in the space? There's a hint word to help you think what to write. Have a look at these examples.

e.g. My brother _____ never brushes his hair! **[hint: cool]**
My brother (who thinks he's really cool) never brushes his hair!

e.g. My brother _____ never brushes his hair! **[hint: name?]**
My brother (who's called Jason) never brushes his hair!

1. I watched a horror film _____
and it really scared me! **[hint: title?]**
2. Dinosaurs _____ were
a type of reptile. **[hint: extinct]**
3. We're not allowed peanut butter _____
in school because there's a girl who's allergic to nuts. **[hint: packed lunch]**
4. The bats _____ sleep
in our attic during the day. **[hint: nocturnal]**
5. I lost my phone _____ when
we went on the Thunder Roller ride. **[hint: birthday present]**
6. We made popcorn _____ for
my birthday party. **[hint: type?]**
7. Simone _____ doesn't
speak much English yet. **[hint: from where?]**
8. We were helping the caretaker _____
to carry all the chairs into the hall. **[hint: back ache]**

9. There aren't many apples left _____
because we used them to make a pie. **[hint: lots earlier]**
10. 'Blue Peter' _____ has
been on TV since the 1960s. **[hint: children's programme]**
11. Put some cushions _____ on
the floor and we can lie down to watch the film. **[hint: how many?]**
12. My dog _____ is
a very curly labradoodle. **[hint: name?]**

Challenge

Now write three sentences of your own. Each one should be a complex sentence and include a parenthetical piece of information. Remember to use brackets!

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Use Brackets, Dashes and Commas to Show Parenthesis

Task 1

For each of these sentences, add an extra information clause (parenthesis) in the spaces. Remember to mark the start and end of your parenthesis with **brackets**, **commas** or **dashes**. Vary your punctuation; don't use just one!

e.g. My brother never brushes his hair!

My brother, who thinks he's really cool, never brushes his hair! OR

My brother - Jason - never brushes his hair OR

My brother (the scruffiest boy in history) never brushes his hair!

1. I watched a horror film _____ and it really scared me!
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1. I'm going to **a party** on Saturday.

2. At the zoo last week, we saw **five elephants**.

3. Never smile at **a crocodile** or you'll regret it!

4. Mum's promised us **hot chocolate** after swimming club.

5. We won the **5-a-side match** easily.

Task 2

For each of these sentences, you need to choose a suitable parenthesis from the box and work out where it should go. Remember to mark the start and end of your parenthesis with brackets, commas or dashes. Vary your punctuation; don't just use one!

e.g. The main door of the office is in the basement.

The front door (with the square 'enter' button to press) is in the basement.

1. My favourite teddy has only one ear.

2. The Empire State building is in New York.

3. Most smart phones can be used to play games.

4. The cycle track went right through the woods.

5. You'll never guess what I heard Sadie say to Katie!

which was full of pot holes	the kind with touch screens	my sister's friend
with the square 'enter' button to press	he's called Marvin	381m high

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Now write three sentences of your own. Each one should be a complex sentence and include a parenthetical piece of information. Remember to use brackets, dashes or commas.

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Use Brackets to Show Parenthesis (Extra Information)

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You have some sets of words which make separate sentences. With each one, there is also parenthesis (an extra bit of information) in brackets. Can you cut up the cards and put the sentence in the correct order with the parenthesis in the right place? Don't forget your sentence punctuation!

e.g. *My brother **(who thinks he's really cool)** never brushes his hair!*

never

my

brushes

brother

hair

his

(who thinks he's really cool)

Extension

Now write three sentences of your own. Each one should include a parenthetical (extra) piece of information. Remember to use brackets!

were	of	reptiles	types	pterosaurs
dinosaurs	(which lived millions of years ago)			and

have	rabbit	at	fluffy	an
extremely	home	I	(called Flopsy)	

play	is	let's	because	football
sunbathing	mum	not	(in the garden)	
seaside	too	small	the	we
go	whenever	best	to	I'm
the	for	rides	(or a theme park)	

Answers

Here are some possible answers for the SEN sentence-ordering activity. There may be other variations which would also be correct:

1. Dinosaurs and pterosaurs (which lived millions of years ago) were types of reptiles.
2. I have an extremely fluffy rabbit (called Flopsy) at home.
3. Whenever we go to the seaside (or a theme park) I'm too small for the best rides.
4. Because mum is sunbathing (in the garden) let's not play football.

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