

The Punctuation Architect: Building Better Sentences

Learning objective: To demonstrate mastery of Class 5 punctuation, including commas for clarity, relative clauses, brackets, dashes, and commas for parenthesis.

Max the monkey has been busy building complex sentences for his maths puzzles, but he has forgotten to add the punctuation! Your task is to act as a Punctuation Architect. Read each sentence and insert the correct punctuation to ensure they are grammatically accurate and clear. You must decide whether to use brackets, dashes, or commas to indicate parenthetical information.

Word bank: parenthesis · relative clause · clarity · comma · bracket · dash

1. Max (who is an expert at mental maths) calculated the total cost of the shopping trip which was £45.60. Add the missing punctuation to this sentence. (2 marks)

2. The shop assistant—a very friendly lady—handed him the receipt. Explain why the dashes are used in this sentence instead of commas. (3 marks)

3. Leo the lion, the leader of our group, suggested we buy fruit. Rewrite this sentence using brackets instead of commas to show the extra information. (2 marks)

4. Kit the fox loves puzzles and he is very quick. Justify why a comma is needed before the conjunction 'and' in this sentence, or explain why it might be omitted. (3 marks)

5. Nova noticed the stars—which were incredibly bright tonight—above the observatory. Compare and contrast the effect of using dashes here versus using brackets. (4 marks)

6. What might happen to the meaning of the sentence 'Let's eat, Grandma' if the comma were removed? Explain the importance of punctuation for clarity. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'Punctuation Blueprint' where you represent each punctuation mark (commas, dashes, brackets) as a different structural tool (like a crane, a support beam, or a connector) holding up a grand, complex sentence.



Extension challenge: Compose a short, adventurous paragraph about an expedition involving at least three of our BookFlik characters. You must include one relative clause, a pair of brackets, and a pair of dashes to show you are a master of sentence structure.