

Mastering Parenthesis with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To identify and use parenthesis to add extra information to sentences using brackets, dashes, or commas.

Read the front of each flashcard to learn about using parenthesis. Try to guess the answer before looking at the 'Answer' section to test your knowledge!

What is parenthesis?

Parenthesis is a word, clause, or sentence inserted into a passage as an explanation or afterthought that is grammatically complete without it.

Which three punctuation marks can be used to show parenthesis?

Brackets (), dashes —, and commas ,

Max the monkey (who was very hungry) ate a banana. Identify the parenthesis.

(who was very hungry)

Rewrite this sentence adding parenthesis with brackets: The library is closed on Sundays.

The library (which is usually busy) is closed on Sundays.

True or False: If you remove the parenthesis, the sentence should still make sense.

True.

Add commas to show parenthesis: Leo the lion who was feeling brave roared loudly.

Leo the lion, who was feeling brave, roared loudly.

Use dashes to add parenthesis to this sentence: Pip found a book.

Pip—a keen reader—found a book.

Why do we use parenthesis in our writing?

To add extra detail, clarify information, or add a personal opinion without changing the main meaning of the sentence.

Nova the owl—who loves stargazing—spotted a planet. What punctuation is used here?

Dashes.

Rewrite this sentence with commas: Zara the zebra is an artist.

Zara, a creative zebra, is an artist.

Can you have more than one piece of parenthesis in a sentence?

Yes, though it is important not to over-complicate your writing!

Fill in the blank: Parenthesis provides _____ information to the reader.

Extra or additional.