

Mastering Parenthesis with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To use brackets, dashes, or commas to indicate parenthesis in Grade 4 writing.

Read the passage about Max's jungle adventure. Use the information provided to add extra detail using brackets, dashes, or commas. Remember to check that your sentence still makes sense if you remove the information inside the parenthesis!

Max the monkey was busy preparing for his annual jungle feast. He had gathered a large pile of tropical fruits for his friends to enjoy. The feast would be held near the ancient river where the water flowed calmly. Max checked his list twice to ensure everything was perfect for the guests.

Word bank: bracket · dash · comma · extra detail · parenthesis · pause

1. Rewrite the first sentence of the passage adding parenthesis to describe Max. (e.g., Max, a clever monkey, was busy...) (2 marks)

2. Rewrite the second sentence using brackets to provide extra detail about the fruit (e.g., mangoes and bananas). (2 marks)

3. Rewrite the third sentence using dashes to add information about the river (e.g., which was wide and winding). (2 marks)

4. Why do we use parenthesis in our writing? Explain how it changes the flow of the sentence. (3 marks)

5. Create your own sentence about Pip the caterpillar using commas to add parenthesis about her favorite hobby. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw Max the monkey setting up a picnic table. In the background, draw the ancient river and label it using a sentence that includes parenthesis.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph about a day out with Ellie the elephant. Include at least three examples of parenthesis using a different method (brackets, dashes, and commas) for each one.