

Mastering Parenthesis with Max the Math Monkey

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

Read each task carefully. Remember that parenthesis adds extra information to a sentence without changing the main meaning. You can use brackets (), dashes —, or commas , , to show this.

Max the monkey is busy organising his collection of mathematical tools. He likes to add extra details to his notes so that his friends understand exactly what he is doing.

Word bank: parenthesis · additional · clauses · brackets · dashes · commas · information

1. Max, who is very clever, loves solving puzzles. Rewrite this sentence using brackets instead of commas to show the parenthesis. (2 marks)

2. Add a piece of parenthesis to the following sentence using a pair of dashes: 'The jungle explorer climbed the tall tree.' (2 marks)

3. Identify the parenthesis in this sentence: 'The golden compass—a gift from his grandfather—was safely tucked in his pocket.' (1 mark)

4. Explain why we use commas to show parenthesis in the sentence: 'Pip, the hungry caterpillar, ate a large leaf.' (2 marks)

5. Write your own sentence about Ellie the elephant that includes a piece of parenthesis using brackets. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the monkey holding a sign that contains a sentence with parenthesis about his favorite hobby.



Extension challenge: Choose a paragraph from your favorite storybook. Rewrite one of the sentences to include extra information about a character using brackets or dashes.