

Mastering Punctuation with Max and Kit

Learning objective: To use brackets, dashes, or commas to indicate parenthesis, and to use commas to clarify meaning or avoid ambiguity.

Read each question carefully. Max the monkey needs help with his math puzzles, and Kit the fox needs help editing his computer code notes. Make sure to use correct punctuation to add extra information or clear up confusion.

Max and Kit are working on an invention. Max, who is very energetic, is jumping around. Kit (the clever fox) is typing on his keyboard. They need to make sure their notes are punctuated correctly so their invention works perfectly!

Word bank: parenthesis · bracket · dash · comma · clarity · additional information

1. Max wants to add extra information to this sentence using brackets: 'The mechanical robot built by Max costs £45.50.' Rewrite the sentence adding '(which is made of recycled tin)' after the word 'robot'. (2 marks)

2. Kit has written: 'Let's eat Grandma!' Add a comma to the sentence to show that they are calling Grandma to dinner, rather than eating her! Explain why the comma is important here. (2 marks)

3. Rewrite this sentence using a pair of dashes to include the information: 'the fastest runner in the forest'. Sentence: 'Leo led the group through the trees.' (2 marks)

4. Insert commas into this list to ensure it is clear: 'For the science fair, we need batteries wires a lightbulb and a screwdriver.' (2 marks)

5. Choose one sentence from the previous questions and explain why you chose to use either brackets, dashes, or commas for parenthesis. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the monkey and Kit the fox working together in a laboratory. Include a speech bubble for Max that contains a sentence with a pair of brackets used for parenthesis.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph about an imaginary invention. You must include at least one example of brackets, one example of a dash, and one comma used to avoid ambiguity.