

Mastering Parenthesis with Max the Maths-Monkey

Learning objective: To use brackets, dashes, or commas to indicate parenthesis, adding extra information to sentences whilst maintaining grammatical coherence.

Max the monkey has been busy collecting sentences for his jungle journal, but he has forgotten to add the extra details. Your task is to rewrite these sentences by adding a piece of relevant information (a relative clause or a noun phrase) using brackets, dashes, or commas to show parenthesis. Ensure that if you remove the parenthetical information, the sentence still makes complete sense.

Word bank: brackets · dashes · commas · relative clause · additional information · grammatical · parenthesis · clarification

1. Max climbed the ancient oak tree. (Add parenthesis to describe the tree's appearance.) (2 marks)

2. The golden telescope belonged to Nova. (Add parenthesis to explain who Nova is.) (2 marks)

3. Pip the caterpillar loves reading books. (Add parenthesis to describe what kind of books Pip enjoys.) (2 marks)

4. Explain why it is vital that the information inside the parenthesis can be removed without the sentence losing its core meaning. (3 marks)

5. Compare and contrast the use of brackets versus dashes for parenthesis. When might a writer choose one over the other to create a specific tone? (4 marks)

6. Justify your answer: Does the sentence 'The elephant (who was very kind) loves history' use parenthesis correctly? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the monkey sitting in a tree with his journal. Include a speech bubble for Max that contains a sentence using parenthesis to describe his favourite snack.



Extension challenge: Write a short, descriptive paragraph (4-6 sentences) about a mysterious forest adventure. You must include at least one example of parenthesis using brackets, one using dashes, and one using commas. Challenge yourself to use complex vocabulary to enhance the atmosphere of your setting.