

Year 5 English Assessment: The Power of Parenthesis

Learning objective: To demonstrate the accurate and effective use of brackets, dashes, and commas to indicate parenthesis in writing.

Read each question carefully. Ensure your punctuation is placed correctly to show additional information. Write your answers clearly in the spaces provided.

Max the monkey, a brilliant mathematician, loves solving complex puzzles. He often visits the forest library (a hollow oak tree) to research. During his studies—which can last for hours—he keeps a small notebook. His friend Pip, a tiny caterpillar, helps him organise his findings.

Word bank: parenthesis · comma · bracket · dash · relative clause · extra information · clarification

1. Identify the three different ways parenthesis is used in the passage provided. Give an example of each. (3 marks)

2. Rewrite the following sentence using brackets to include the extra information: 'The old oak tree stood in the middle of the clearing and was over two hundred years old.' (2 marks)

3. Explain why a writer might choose to use a pair of dashes instead of commas when adding a parenthesis. What effect does this have on the reader? (3 marks)

4. Add a relative clause to the sentence below using commas for parenthesis: 'Leo the lion roared across the savannah.' (3 marks)

5. Justify why the following sentence is grammatically incorrect: 'Nova the owl (a nocturnal bird, loves stargazing).' Explain how you would fix it. (4 marks)

6. Compare and contrast the use of brackets and commas. When is one more appropriate than the other in formal report writing? (5 marks)

7. Write a short paragraph (3-4 sentences) about a day in the life of Kit the fox. You must include at least one example of brackets, one pair of dashes, and one pair of commas for parenthesis. (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene featuring Max the monkey working at his desk. Label three items in your drawing using a sentence that includes parenthesis, for example: 'The calculator (a brass device) sat on the table.'



Extension challenge: Imagine you are explaining the concept of parenthesis to a younger student. Create a short 'How-to' guide that explains the 'Three Rules of Parenthesis'. Include an example of how a sentence changes meaning when parenthesis is removed. Total: /25