

Mastering Parenthesis: Adding Extra Detail

Unlock the Secret Code to Super Sentences: Use Parenthesis for Extra Detail!

- **What is parenthesis?** It is a word, phrase, or clause inserted into a sentence as an explanation or afterthought that is grammatically complete without it.
- **Which punctuation marks can be used to hold parenthesis?** You can use a pair of commas (for gentle pauses), a pair of brackets (for extra details), or a pair of dashes (for emphasis).
- **How do I check if my parenthesis works?** Try removing the part inside the punctuation marks; if the sentence still makes sense on its own, you have used parenthesis correctly!
- **Why use commas?** Commas are the most common way to show parenthesis, often used to enclose a relative clause starting with 'who', 'which', or 'where'.
- **When should I use dashes?** Dashes are best used when you want the extra information to stand out or feel more dramatic to the reader.
- **Can I mix and match?** You must be consistent! If you start with a dash, you must finish with a dash. Never mix brackets with commas.

Did you know? Did you know? Parenthesis comes from the Greek word 'parentithenai', which means 'to put in beside'. Just like our friend Pip the caterpillar adds extra words to his collection, you can add extra snippets of information to your sentences without changing their core meaning!

Key vocabulary: Parenthesis · Bracket · Comma · Dash · Relative clause · Additional information · Embedded · Punctuation