

Mastering Parenthesis with Max the Maths-Monkey

Learning objective: To identify, use, and punctuate parenthesis using brackets, dashes, or commas to add extra information to sentences.

Help Max the monkey organise his notes! Read the sentences carefully and use your knowledge of parenthesis to answer these 10 questions. Remember: parenthesis must provide extra information that could be removed without changing the core meaning of the sentence.

Answer Key: 1.C, 2.True, 3.Commas, 4.B, 5.False, 6.D, 7.Dashes, 8.True, 9.Brackets, 10.Max was tired (after his long climb) but still happy.

Word bank: parenthesis · brackets · dashes · commas · extra information · clause · punctuation

1. 1. Which of these is a correct definition of parenthesis? A) A type of animal. B) A word that rhymes with branch. C) A word, phrase, or clause inserted into a sentence to add extra detail. D) A way to end a story.* (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: Parenthesis must always be placed at the very end of a sentence. (1 mark)

3. 3. Which punctuation mark is used in this sentence: The monkey, who loved bananas, climbed the tree? (1 mark)

4. 4. Identify the sentence that uses parenthesis correctly: A) Max (the monkey) climbed the tree. B) Max (the monkey climbed the tree). C) Max the monkey (climbed the tree). D) Max the (monkey) climbed the tree.* (1 mark)

5. 5. True or False: If you remove the information inside the parenthesis, the sentence should still make sense. (1 mark)

6. 6. Which pair of punctuation marks creates the strongest sense of interruption or dramatic pause? A) Commas B) Brackets C) Full stops D) Dashes* (1 mark)

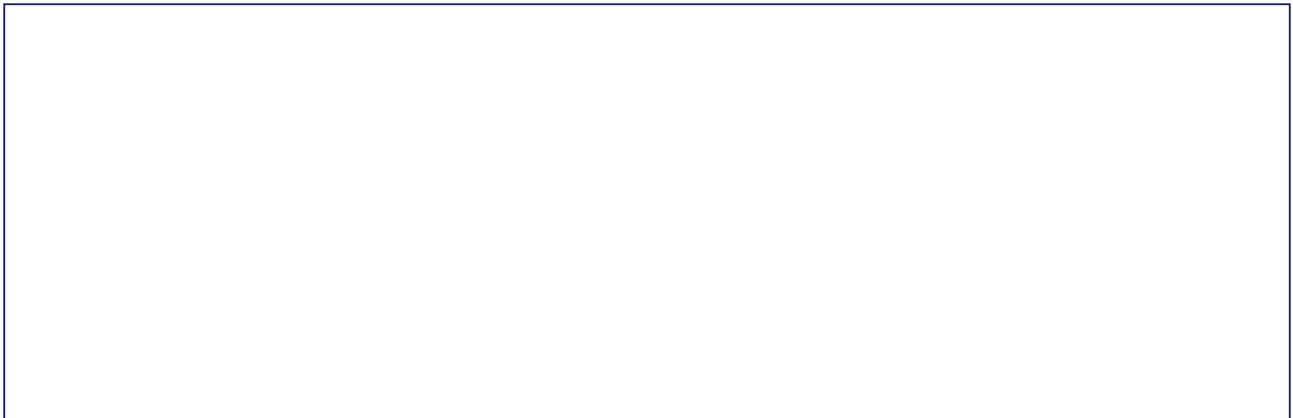
7. 7. What punctuation is missing here? Pip the caterpillar --- an avid reader --- finished his book. (1 mark)

8. 8. True or False: You can use two commas to create parenthesis. (1 mark)

9. 9. Which punctuation mark is best suited for adding a technical or scientific note? A) Brackets B) Dashes C) Commas D) Question marks* (1 mark)

10. 10. Rewrite this sentence to include parenthesis: Max was tired but still happy. (The extra info is: after his long climb) (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the monkey holding a sign that contains a sentence with parenthesis. Make sure the punctuation is clearly visible around the extra information!



Extension challenge: Challenge: 1. Explain why a writer might choose to use dashes instead of commas for parenthesis. 2. Compare and contrast the effect of using brackets versus commas in a formal report. 3. Justify your answer: Does the position of the parenthesis change the focus of the sentence? 4. What might happen if a writer forgot the second comma or dash in a pair of parenthesis? 5. Write a paragraph about a day in the life of Nova the owl, ensuring you use at least one example of each type of parenthesis (brackets, dashes, and commas). 6. If you were writing an instruction manual for building a treehouse, why would parenthesis be a useful tool for the reader?