

Mastering Parenthesis with Max the Maths-Monkey

Learning objective: To use brackets, dashes, or commas to indicate parenthesis in Year 5 writing.

Read the passage below about Max's busy day in the jungle. Add the missing punctuation to correctly show the parenthesis (extra information) in each sentence. You may use brackets, commas, or dashes.

Max who is a very enthusiastic monkey loves solving puzzles. He decided to visit the local market—a bustling place filled with fruit—to buy some snacks for his friends. He brought his favourite calculator a shiny silver device to help him calculate the cost of the bananas. The price of the bananas which were perfectly ripe was exactly £2.50. Max shared his treat with Leo the gentle lion who was waiting by the riverbank.

Word bank: parenthesis · additional · information · punctuation · embedded · clause · description

1. Identify the parenthesis in the first sentence. Why is this information considered 'extra' to the main clause? (2 marks)

2. Rewrite the sentence about the calculator using a different type of punctuation for the parenthesis than the one used in the passage. (2 marks)

3. Explain why the author chose to include the phrase 'which were perfectly ripe' as a parenthesis rather than starting a new sentence. (2 marks)

4. Compare and contrast the effect of using commas versus brackets for parenthesis. Which would you choose for a formal report and why? (2 marks)

5. Justify your answer: Does the sentence 'Max (the monkey) climbed the tree' change its meaning if the parenthesis is removed? Explain. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene featuring Max the monkey at a marketplace. Label your drawing with three sentences that each contain a different form of parenthesis (one with commas, one with brackets, and one with dashes).



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph about an adventure you had, ensuring you include at least three examples of parenthesis using different punctuation marks. Challenge yourself to use a complex embedded clause that adds significant detail to your narrative.