

Mastering Parenthesis with Max and Ellie

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

Read each sentence carefully. Your task is to use punctuation—either brackets, commas, or dashes—to insert additional information into the sentences below. Ensure your sentences remain clear and accurate.

Max the monkey and Ellie the elephant are exploring the school garden to learn about grammar. They have discovered that adding extra details to a sentence helps the reader understand the story better, provided the original sentence still makes sense without the added information.

Word bank: parenthesis · extra information · brackets · dashes · commas · subordinate · clarification

1. Max found a shiny pebble in the garden. Add the extra information 'which was perfectly round' using brackets. (2 marks)

2. Ellie the elephant walked slowly across the grass. Insert 'who has an incredible memory' using a pair of commas. (2 marks)

3. The ancient oak tree stands tall in the corner. Use a pair of dashes to include the phrase 'the oldest plant in the park'. (2 marks)

4. Explain why it is important to check that a sentence still makes sense after you remove the information inside the parenthesis. Justify your answer with an example. (3 marks)

5. Compare and contrast the use of brackets and dashes. In what type of writing might you choose one over the other? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene where Max and Ellie are studying. Include a speech bubble above Max containing a sentence with a clear parenthesis, such as 'The maths puzzle—which was quite difficult—was finally solved.'



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph (4-5 sentences) describing a day out at the museum with Pip the bookworm. You must include at least one example of brackets, one example of commas for parenthesis, and one example of dashes for parenthesis. Explain why you chose the specific punctuation marks for each instance.