Mastering Parenthesis with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To identify and use parenthesis correctly using brackets, dashes, or commas to add extra information to a sentence.

Read the front of each flashcard to test your knowledge of parenthesis. Max the Monkey has hidden the answers on the back! Use these cards to improve your punctuation skills.

What is the grammatical term for a word, phrase, or clause inserted into a sentence to add extra information?	Parenthesis.
True or False: If you remove the parenthesis from a sentence, the sentence should still make complete sense.	True.
Max the Monkey wrote: 'The banana (which was bright yellow) tasted delicious.' Identify the parenthesis.	(which was bright yellow).
Which three punctuation marks can be used to indicate parenthesis?	Brackets ( ), dashes —, and commas , ,.
Rewrite this sentence adding parenthesis using commas: 'The old oak tree stood in the middle of the field.'	The old oak tree, which had gnarled branches, stood in the middle of the field. (or similar).
When should you use brackets for parenthesis?	When you want to add an aside or extra detail that is less closely linked to the main clause.
Add dashes to this sentence for emphasis: 'The exam was difficult but I finished it.'	The exam—which was extremely difficult—was finished by me.
Why is parenthesis useful in your writing?	It allows the writer to add detail, context, or personal comments without breaking the main flow of the sentence.
Look at this sentence: 'Pip the caterpillar loves reading books.' Add parenthesis using brackets to describe Pip.	Pip (a cheerful caterpillar) loves reading books.
Does parenthesis always need to be a relative clause starting with 'who' or 'which'?	No, it can also be a noun phrase or a short comment.
Correct this sentence: 'Nova the owl -who loves stargazing- sat on the branch.'	Nova the owl—who loves stargazing—sat on the branch.
If you use a pair of commas for parenthesis, what must you remember to do?	You must place a comma both before and after the extra information.