Mastering Parenthesis: Adding Extra Detail

Pause for Thought: Add Extra Detail to Your Writing!

■ **What is parenthesis? It is a word, phrase, or clause inserted into a sentence as an explanation or afterthought that is grammatically complete even without the extra information.**

■ **Which punctuation marks can be used for parenthesis? You can use a pair of commas, a pair of brackets, or a pair of dashes to separate the extra information from the main clause.**

■ **How do I check if I used it correctly? Read your sentence out loud. If the sentence still makes perfect sense when you remove the part inside the punctuation, you have used parenthesis correctly!**

■ **When should I use brackets? Brackets are often used for extra facts or specific details that are separate from the main flow of the writing, like saying: Max (who loves math) solved the puzzle.**

■ **When should I use dashes? Dashes are useful for adding emphasis or a sudden change in thought, giving your writing a more informal or dramatic tone.**

■ **When should I use commas? Commas are the most common way to show parenthesis and are used to add extra information that flows naturally with the rest of the sentence.**

Did you know? Did you know? The word 'parenthesis' comes from Ancient Greek and literally means 'to put in beside'. Just like Nova the owl adds extra observations while stargazing, parenthesis allows you to add extra, non-essential information into a sentence without changing its core meaning!

Key vocabulary: Parenthesis · Brackets · Dashes · Commas · Relative clause · Non-essential information