Parenthesis

A picture guide for Year 5. Parenthesis, brackets and dashes are new Year 5 terms.

Parenthesis is extra information added to a sentence.

The sentence already makes sense without it. The extra bit is marked off with a **pair** of brackets, dashes or commas.

Think of a sandwich

The bread is your sentence. The filling is the extra information. The punctuation holds the filling in.

My grandma (**who is 80**) **still swims every day.**

The dog – **soaking wet** – **ran into the kitchen.**

Mr Patel , **our head teacher** , **read us a story.**

✂ The take-it-out test

With it

My grandma (who is 80) still swims every day.

Without it

My grandma still swims every day.

Still a full sentence - so it was parenthesis.

For parents: "parenthesis" is the extra information itself; brackets, dashes and commas are the punctuation that mark it. The plural is "parentheses".

Parenthesis: choosing

Brackets, dashes or commas all do the same job - here is how to choose.

Which punctuation should I choose?

Mark	Feels	Example
( )	a quiet aside - often facts, dates, explanations	Queen Victoria (1819-1901) ruled for 63 years.
– –	dramatic, makes it stand out	The cave – dark and silent – swallowed us up.
, ,	smooth, the most common	Ben, my cousin, is ten.

Always use a pair

✓ Pair

The lion, king of the jungle, roared.

✗ Missing one

The lion, king of the jungle roared.

The only time you use one mark is when the extra information comes at the very end of the sentence: *I opened the door – and screamed.*

What can go inside?

- **a word: (amazingly)**
- **a phrase: (my best friend)**
- **a relative clause: (which was huge)**
- **a date: (1066)**

Your turn: underline the parenthesis

1. Our teacher (Mrs Hill) is very kind.
2. The storm – a terrible one – knocked trees down.
3. London, the capital city, is always busy.
4. My cat, who is very old, sleeps all day.

For parents: ask your child to read the sentence aloud without the extra bit - if it still works, the punctuation is in the right place.

Answers: 1. Mrs Hill 2. a terrible one 3. the capital city 4. who is very old