

B**Parenthesis**

A piece of extra information added to a sentence is called a **parenthesis**. The sentence would still make sense if the extra information was removed. We can use **commas**, **parentheses (brackets)** or **dashes** to separate a parenthesis from the rest of the sentence.

Examples: My pet dog, who is called Gnasher, is very friendly.
 Daisy (my mum's car) is quite old.
 His swollen foot—the size of a football—was extremely painful.

You will notice that using **brackets** makes the parenthesis **easy to see**. Also, using **dashes draws more attention** to the extra information.

- 1 Write this sentence again using **commas** to separate the extra information from the rest of the sentence.

Jake who enjoys eating popcorn is going to the cinema.



Jake, who enjoys eating popcorn, is going to the cinema.

- 2 Rewrite this sentence and separate the extra information using **parentheses (brackets)**.
 Gnasher my neighbour's dog is on the loose again.

Gnasher (my neighbour's dog) is on the loose again.

- 3 Rewrite this sentence using a **pair of dashes** in the right places.
 My friend's cat a very rare breed is worth a lot of money.



My friend's cat—a very rare breed—is worth a lot of money.

- 4 Whether you use brackets, commas or dashes around extra information in a sentence is your choice. Sometimes there can be too many **commas**. Look at this sentence:

My pencil case(containing pencils, pens, a rubber and a ruler) is, in my opinion, the coolest case around!

Add a pair of **brackets** to replace two of the commas.

OK!



- 5 Write a sentence of your own including a parenthesis. Use your choice of punctuation marks around the extra information.

My dad's car—a complete wreck—wouldn't start this morning.

I know three ways of separating a parenthesis from the rest of a sentence.

I'm confident

I'm nearly there

C

Using commas

- to separate words in a list —————> We took knives, forks, spoons and plates
- after fronted adverbials —————> Without thinking twice, she dived in.
- with a parenthesis —————> The twins, who loved to play tricks, changed places.
- between main clauses —————> They went to the station, but the train had gone.

Sometimes commas are necessary to avoid confusion.

Example: She ate her sandwiches and her brother smiled.

She ate her sandwiches, and her brother smiled. (She didn't eat her brother.)

- 1 Without commas, these sentences would have strange meanings. Add a **comma** to each one.



Most of the time, travellers worry about losing their luggage.



We're going to decorate the lounge, and Dad will be pleased.



"I'm starving!" exclaimed Josie. "Let's eat, Grandma", she said.

- 2 Rewrite this short passage and add all the necessary **commas**.

It was a frosty morning in November and December was approaching fast. After eating his breakfast Josh packed his bag. Carefully he placed his sandwiches water bottle and books inside. He patted his pet dog Rover and set off to school.



It was a frosty morning in November, and December was approaching fast.

After eating his breakfast, Josh packed his bag. Carefully, he placed his

sandwiches, water bottle and books inside. He patted his pet dog, Rover,

and set off to school.

- 3 Sometimes we need to put a **subordinate clause** in the middle of a sentence. We put commas **before** and **after** the subordinate clause. Rewrite these sentences, adding two **commas** to each.

Charlie when he noticed the time ran to the bus stop.



Charlie, when he noticed the time, ran to the bus stop.

The old book which was very precious had come from Africa.



The old book, which was very precious, had come from Africa.

To my surprise when I looked on the floor I spotted the missing coin.



To my surprise, when I looked on the floor, I spotted the missing coin.

Oh no!



I know how to use commas to avoid confusion
or to make things clear.

I'm confident

I'm nearly there