

Learning Focus

Brackets (), dashes (–) and commas (,) can all be used to add extra information to a sentence — this is called parenthesis. The extra part can be removed and the sentence will still make sense on its own. Example: My dog (a small terrier) loves the park.

Commas can also be used to make the meaning of a sentence clear and stop it from being read the wrong way. Example: Let's eat, Grandma! (without the comma, it sounds like Grandma is the meal!)

Section A: Spotting the Correct Punctuation

Circle the letter next to the sentence that uses brackets, dashes or commas correctly to mark the parenthesis.

1. Which sentence uses brackets correctly to add extra information?
 - a) My uncle (who lives in Leeds) is visiting us next week.
 - b) My uncle who lives in Leeds is visiting us next week.
 - c) My uncle, who lives (in Leeds) is visiting us next week.
 - d) My (uncle who lives in Leeds) is visiting us next week.
2. Which sentence uses dashes correctly to mark parenthesis?
 - a) The recipe – which takes an hour to make – serves six people.
 - b) The recipe, which takes – an hour to make, serves six people.
 - c) The recipe which takes an hour – to make serves six people.
 - d) The recipe – which takes an hour to make serves six people.
3. Which sentence uses commas correctly to indicate parenthesis?
 - a) The dog, a scruffy terrier, barked at the postman.
 - b) The dog a scruffy terrier, barked at the postman.
 - c) The dog, a scruffy terrier barked, at the postman.
 - d) The dog, a scruffy, terrier barked at the postman.
4. Which sentence correctly uses brackets for extra information?
 - a) Sam's favourite subject (surprisingly) is maths.
 - b) Sam's (favourite subject surprisingly) is maths.
 - c) Sam's favourite subject surprisingly (is maths).
 - d) Sam's favourite (subject) surprisingly is maths.
5. Which sentence uses a pair of dashes correctly?
 - a) The storm – the worst in years – flooded the village.
 - b) The storm the worst – in years flooded the village.
 - c) The storm – the worst in years flooded the village.
 - d) The storm the worst in years – flooded the village.
6. Which sentence uses commas correctly for parenthesis?
 - a) Our teacher, Miss Patel, set us a maths challenge.
 - b) Our teacher Miss Patel, set us a maths challenge.
 - c) Our, teacher Miss Patel set us a maths challenge.
 - d) Our teacher, Miss Patel set us, a maths challenge.



7. Which sentence correctly uses brackets to add a comment?

- a) The film (which lasted three hours) was excellent.
- b) The film which lasted (three hours) was excellent.
- c) The (film which lasted three hours) was excellent.
- d) The film which lasted three hours (was excellent).

8. Which sentence uses dashes correctly?

- a) The bridge – built in 1920 – is still in use today.
- b) The bridge built – in 1920 is still in use today.
- c) The bridge – built in 1920 is still in use today.
- d) The bridge built in 1920 – is still in use today.

Section B: Adding the Parenthesis

Rewrite each sentence, adding the type of punctuation shown in brackets to mark the extra information.

1. (brackets) My sister who is only seven can already ride a bike.

2. (dashes) The match despite the rain went ahead as planned.

3. (commas) The castle a popular tourist attraction was built in the twelfth century.

4. (brackets) The museum which opened in May has already had thousands of visitors.

5. (dashes) Our head teacher Mr Osei always greets us at the gate.

6. (commas) The novel written by a local author has become a bestseller.



Section C: Commas for Clarity

Add a comma to each sentence to make the meaning clear.

1. Let's eat Grandma!

2. Most of the time travellers worry about delays.

3. While we were eating a wasp flew into the kitchen.

4. The dog ran to its owner who was calling loudly.

5. I spent the afternoon with my grandparents an artist and a chef.

6. Outside the school gates were closed.

Section D: Fix It!

Each sentence below has a punctuation mistake. Write out the sentence correctly.

1. My cousin who lives in Cardiff, is coming to stay.

2. The bakery which opens at six sells fresh bread every morning.

3. The concert – which was sold out finished late.

4. I helped my friend Tom fix his bike.
