

A dog howled ~~braeking~~ the  
 comma → *breaking*

stillness. Someone was behind me...  
 period ← *ellipsis*

## Parentheses and Dashes



# Using punctuation to add information



Identify the extra information that belongs to each sentence.  
Why do you think each type of punctuation has been used?

1. UFOs \_\_\_\_\_ may be  
watching the Earth right now...

2. Tom \_\_\_\_\_ was a very  
brave player.

3. His aftershave \_\_\_\_\_  
made me feel sick.

\_\_\_\_\_ , the captain of the team,

(a dessert containing soft cheese)

\_\_\_\_\_ – talk about smelly –

(Unidentified Flying Objects)



hide words

solve



We can use different punctuation marks to help us add extra information to a sentence. This is called ‘**parenthesis**’.

When something is put ‘in parenthesis’ this means it is separated from the main part of the sentence by a pair of parentheses, commas or dashes.

Round parentheses (()) and pairs of dashes (–) allow you to add extra information to a sentence which is **useful** – but not essential – or to add your **opinion**.

**How do you know when to use parentheses and when to use dashes?**

To make that decision it is necessary to understand that each form of punctuation interrupts the flow of the text to a different degree.



Round parentheses allow you to add extra information to a sentence without interrupting the flow too much. The information they contain is like a silent thought.

For example:

**Star goalie Danny Campbell (age 16) was (unfortunately for his team) injured before the game.**

The sentence still makes sense without the extra information in the parentheses.

**Star goalie Danny Campbell was injured before the game.**



# Where should the parentheses go?



**Press on the places in each sentence where the parentheses should be. If you are correct, the parentheses will appear!**

Tom went to watch a football game Cardinals versus Vikings on Saturday.

My little brothers Jack and Darren are so annoying.

Watching too much TV over two hours per day is bad for your eyesight.

We had Brussels sprouts yuck for dinner last night.

I was talking online to two of my friends last night.



solve



**Write three sentences that each contain a piece of additional information in parentheses.**



Pairs of dashes interrupt the flow of a sentence more strongly.

They deliberately draw the reader's attention to important additional information. The information they contain is like an additional thought that is said out loud.

**Natalie screamed at her family and then slammed the door.**

The extra information is placed between the dashes for emphasis, but the sentence still makes sense without it.



Can you identify the places where the pair of dashes should go in each sentence?

- 1. Yamina glared at her brother – who had beaten her in the quiz – and then stuck her tongue out at him.**
- 2. The farmer’s sheepdog, Rusty – clearly his most loyal friend – followed the farmer wherever he went.**
- 3. Fertilizers – regardless of their negative effects – are used to help crops grow quickly.**
- 4. Peter and Sue had a beautiful baby girl – weighing 8 pounds – last week.**



**Did you correctly identify these places?**

