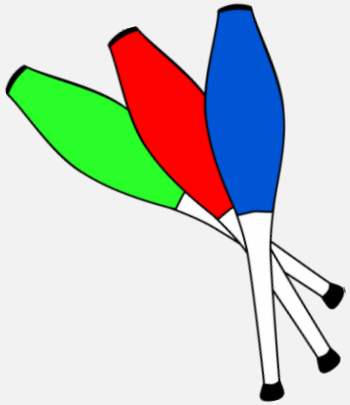
Parenthesis







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What is a parenthesis?

Parenthesis is when a word, phrase, clause or even a whole sentence is added into a sentence or passage to give additional information.

A parenthesis is additional to the meaning of a sentence. The sentence will still make sense without it.



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Brackets, dashes and commas

Parenthesis can be shown by brackets, commas or dashes.

Examples:

- *Tomorrow (no doubt) it will rain again!*
- *Tomorrow - no doubt - it will rain again!*
- *Tomorrow, no doubt, it will rain again!*



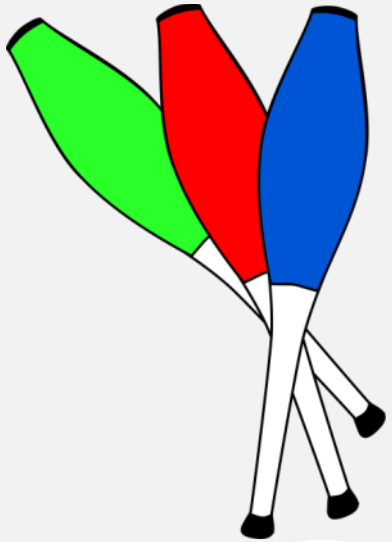
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Punctuating parenthesis

If the parenthesis is in the middle of a sentence, then you need a **matching pair** of punctuation marks:

- *The clown (the star of the show) was 85 years old.*
- *The clown – the star of the show – was 85 years old.*
- *The clown, the star of the show, was 85 years old.*



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Punctuating parenthesis

If the parenthesis is at the end of a sentence and if you are using a comma or a dash, then you only need one punctuation mark. However, if you are using brackets, you will always need to use a pair:



- *The game was cancelled, which was a pity.*
- *The game was cancelled – which was a pity.*
- *The game was cancelled (which was a pity).*

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Punctuating brackets

What is the difference between the punctuation of the brackets in the following examples?

Why is it different?

- *The game was cancelled (which was a pity).*
- *The game was cancelled. (I wasn't too upset.)*



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Answers

When the information is added to the end of a sentence, the full stop goes outside the brackets:

- *The game was cancelled (which was a pity).*

When the information is a complete sentence in its own right, the full stop goes inside the brackets:

- *The game was cancelled. (I wasn't too upset.)*

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