

Varied Fluency

Step 3: Using Dashes to Indicate Parenthesis

National Curriculum Objectives:

English Year 5: (5G5.9) [Using brackets, dashes or commas to indicate parenthesis](#)

Terminology for pupils:

- English Year 5: (5G5.9) [parenthesis](#)
- English Year 5: (5G5.9) [dash](#)

Differentiation:

Developing Questions to support using dashes to demarcate added parenthesis within a single-clause sentence.

Expected Questions to support using dashes to demarcate added parenthesis within a multi-clause sentence.

Greater Depth Questions to support using dashes to demarcate added parenthesis within a multi-clause sentence, where subordinate clauses are also used. Hyphens are used within words.

[More resources](#) from our Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling scheme of work.

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Using Dashes to Indicate Parenthesis

1a. Tick two boxes to show where the dashes should go in the sentence below to indicate parenthesis.

The film out yesterday was very funny.

☐
☐
☐


VF

Using Dashes to Indicate Parenthesis

1b. Tick two boxes to show where the dashes should go in the sentence below to indicate parenthesis.

Jasper the boy next door was lovely.

☐
☐
☐


VF

2a. Which sentence has used dashes to indicate parenthesis correctly? Tick one box.

The cat a ginger tabby – enjoyed curling – up in front of the fire.

☐

The puppy – only 10 weeks old – was going to a new home.

☐


VF

2b. Which sentence has used dashes to indicate parenthesis correctly? Tick one box.

My coffee – bought only 5 minutes ago – is stone cold!

☐

Her drink which had been in the fridge was – very refreshing.

☐


VF

3a. Underline the parenthesis in the sentence below.

He had wrapped a lot of presents – 15 in total!



VF

3b. Underline the parenthesis in the sentence below.

It had happened so many years ago – 20 years ago in fact.



VF

4a. True or false? The sentence below needs dashes to indicate parenthesis.

Mr Smith a 50 year old reporter from London broke the news first.



VF

4b. True or false? The sentence below needs dashes to indicate parenthesis.

The story was first reported by a lady from Manchester.



VF

Using Dashes to Indicate Parenthesis

5a. Tick two boxes to show where the dashes should go in the sentence below to indicate parenthesis.

Mrs Smith ☐ our new teacher ☐ gave us
extra ☐ playtime for behaving ☐ so well.



VF

Using Dashes to Indicate Parenthesis

5b. Tick two boxes to show where the dashes should go in the sentence below to indicate parenthesis.

I love peas ☐ except ☐ the mushy sort ☐ but
I don't ☐ like pea soup!



VF

6a. Which sentence has used dashes to indicate parenthesis correctly? Tick one box.

A large sum of money – over £1,000,000 – was won by a family of seven and they gave half to charity. ☐

After winning the lottery – a man – who wanted to remain nameless, spent it all in one day. ☐



VF

6b. Which sentence has used dashes to indicate parenthesis correctly? Tick one box.

Dad who was – rubbish at games – gave many wrong answers so he did not win the competition. ☐

After thinking for a while – 10 whole minutes to be precise – Dad decided that his answer was no and was not willing to change his mind. ☐



VF

7a. Underline the parenthesis in the sentence below.

Thankfully, his mother said that he could go to his best friend's party – weather permitting – as long as he was back by midnight.



VF

7b. Underline the parenthesis in the sentence below.

Finally, his luck had changed and the expensive mountain bike was reduced in the sale – only £150!



VF

8a. True or false? The sentence below needs dashes to indicate parenthesis.

The mole who was very short sighted was trying to find his way out as he had buried himself quite deep underground.



VF

8b. True or false? The sentence below needs dashes to indicate parenthesis.

Beautiful soft snowflakes had started to fall and were beginning to create a carpet of white amongst the ground.



VF

Using Dashes to Indicate Parenthesis

9a. Tick two boxes to show where the dashes should go in the sentence below to indicate parenthesis.

To stop the build-up of traffic, the police

man who had just arrived took charge

and began to redirect the buses and lorries.



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Using Dashes to Indicate Parenthesis

9b. Tick two boxes to show where the dashes should go in the sentence below to indicate parenthesis.

To keep up-to-date with new ideas, the

pupil aged 10 read books avidly and often

recommended those he loved to his friends.



VF

10a. Which sentence has used dashes to indicate parenthesis correctly? Tick one box.

Last week, a break-in occurred at night – 1am to be precise – but the police still have no real clues.

☐

During the evening – a break-in occurred – leaving police baffled as to who committed the crime.

☐


VF

10b. Which sentence has used dashes to indicate parenthesis correctly? Tick one box.

Developed by scientists – the new-fangled device – will be put on display so that everyone can see it.

☐

The state-of-the-art device is going on display – as of next week – so everyone will have a chance to view it.

☐


VF

11a. Underline the parenthesis in the sentence below.

Jumping ahead of the line, the child couldn't wait to ice-skate his way around the rink at the newly built leisure park – it had only opened today and everyone was really excited to see it.



VF

11b. Underline the parenthesis in the sentence below.

Deviously, the dragon decided to booby-trap his entire cave in case someone attempted to steal his precious gold – it had happened before!



VF

12a. True or false? The sentence below needs dashes to indicate parenthesis.

With the weather worsening, the waves crashed against the shore and the boat looked in danger of sinking so the public called for help.



VF

12b. True or false? The sentence below needs dashes to indicate parenthesis.

This morning, Sasha the new girl in our class looked incredibly nervous when she stood up and introduced herself but she managed to get through it.



VF

Varied Fluency

Using Dashes to Indicate Parenthesis

Developing

- 1a. The film – out yesterday – was very funny.
- 2a. The puppy – only 10 weeks old – was going to a new home.
- 3a. He had wrapped a lot of presents – 15 in total!
- 4a. True

Expected

- 5a. Mrs Smith – our new teacher – gave us extra playtime for behaving so well.
- 6a. A large sum of money – over £1,000,000 – was won by a family of seven and they gave half to charity.
- 7a. Thankfully, his mother said that he could go to his best friend's party – weather permitting – as long as he was back by midnight.
- 8a. True

Greater Depth

- 9a. To stop the build-up of traffic, the police man – who had just arrived – took charge and began to redirect the buses and lorries.
- 10a. Last week, a break-in occurred at night – 1am to be precise – but the police still have no real clues.
- 11a. Jumping ahead of the line, the child couldn't wait to ice-skate his way around the rink at the newly built leisure park – it had only opened today and everyone was really excited to see it.
- 12a. False

Varied Fluency

Using Dashes to Indicate Parenthesis

Developing

- 1b. Jasper – the boy next door – was lovely.
- 2b. My coffee – bought only 5 minutes ago – is stone cold!
- 3b. It had happened so many years ago – 20 years ago in fact.
- 4a. False – there is no parenthesis.

Expected

- 5a. I love peas – except the mushy sort – but I don't like pea soup!
- 6a. After thinking for a while – 10 whole minutes to be precise – Dad decided that his answer was no and was not willing to change his mind.
- 7a. Finally, his luck had changed and the expensive mountain bike was reduced in the sale – only £150!
- 8a. False – there is no parenthesis.

Greater Depth

- 9a. To keep up-to-date with new ideas, the pupil – aged 10 – read books avidly and often recommended those he loved to his friends.
- 10a. The state-of-the-art device is going on display – as of next week – so everyone will have a chance to view it.
- 11a. Deviously, the dragon decided to booby-trap his entire cave in case someone attempted to steal his precious gold – it had happened before!
- 12a. True – the new girl in our class – needs dashes for parenthesis.