

Varied Fluency

Step 1: Recognising 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) [bracket](#)
- English Year 5: (5G5.9) [dash](#)

Differentiation:

Developing Questions to support recognising parenthesis located mid-sentence with two punctuation marks to demarcate it. Sentences are single clauses with added parenthesis.

Expected Questions to support recognising parenthesis located mid-sentence or at the end of the sentence. Sentences are multi-clause sentences with added parenthesis.

Greater Depth Questions to support recognising parenthesis located mid-sentence or at the end of the sentence. Sentences are multi-clause sentences with added parenthesis. Commas are also used for lists and adverbials within sentences.

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

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Recognising Parenthesis

Recognising Parenthesis

1a. Name the punctuation used for parenthesis in the following sentences.

- A. My neighbour, who is ninety-two years old, was a soldier during the War.
- B. My cousins – who live in Edinburgh – are visiting next weekend.



VF

1b. Name the punctuation used for parenthesis in the following sentences.

- A. Dinosaurs (which are now extinct) lived millions of years ago.
- B. The park, which has a petting farm, is open to the public everyday.



VF

2a. Circle the punctuation used for parenthesis in the sentence below.

The children – who were going to the zoo on a school trip – had to be in school for half past eight.



VF

2b. Circle the punctuation used for parenthesis in the sentence below.

The spotty dog, which lives at the end of our street, chases after the postman.



VF

3a. Underline the parenthesis in the sentence below.

The trim-trail, which had been recently installed in our playground, was enjoyed by all the children.



VF

3b. Underline the parenthesis in the sentence below.

The alien – which was green with yellow eyes – had three heads.



VF

4a. True or false? Commas are used correctly for parenthesis in the sentences below.

	T	F
A. I went to the museum (with my dad) at the weekend.		
B. My brother, who is three years older than me, has just left college.		



VF

4b. True or false? Commas are used correctly for parenthesis in the sentences below.

	T	F
A. The football team, who had just lost a game, were downcast.		
B. Last week, I went to my friend's house for a sleepover.		



VF

Recognising Parenthesis

5a. Name the punctuation used for parenthesis in the following sentences.

- A. The passenger smiled through gritted teeth and said nothing (she wasn't very happy about the plane's delay).
- B. The Amazon rainforest – which is in Brazil – is the world's largest tropical rainforest and covers an area of over 5 million square kilometres.



VF

Recognising Parenthesis

5b. Name the punctuation used for parenthesis in the following sentences.

- A. The sea appeared to be calm and still when viewed from the beach (underneath however there was a strong current).
- B. The baby giraffe, which had just been born, struggled to stand on his weak spindly legs and had to be helped by his mother.



VF

6a. Circle the punctuation used for parenthesis in the sentence below.

The old decrepit castle, which sat on top of the hill, had been abandoned for hundreds of years and nobody dared to enter it.



VF

6b. Circle the punctuation used for parenthesis in the sentence below.

The old brown box, which had been sat in the corner of the attic for many years, was covered with dust and cobwebs but the key was surprisingly clean.



VF

7a. Underline the parenthesis in the sentence below.

The vegetable patch – which sat in the allotment – was looked after by my grandad and I used to help him with it during the summer holidays.



VF

7b. Underline the parenthesis in the sentence below.

The elegant ballerina – who was about to star in her own stage show – had been training for many years and now her dream had come true.



VF

8a. True or false? Commas are used correctly for parenthesis in the sentences below

	T	F
A. I went to the cinema to see Trolls with my dad, and we had a giant bucket of popcorn.		
B. My dad, who is seventy, signed up to take part in a marathon because he loves running.		



VF

8b. True or false? Commas are used correctly for parenthesis in the sentences below

	T	F
A. My brother likes to travel and is currently in Madagascar, an island south east of Africa.		
B. We will be visiting my cousins in London, and we will see the Christmas lights.		



VF

Recognising Parenthesis

9a. Name the punctuation used for parenthesis in the following sentences.

- A. The long, dark, winding path (which seemed to go on forever) finally led us to our destination where we froze in fear.
- B. During the weekend, the swimming team – who had been training all week – prepared themselves for the annual gala as they wanted to win.



VF

Recognising Parenthesis

9b. Name the punctuation used for parenthesis in the following sentences.

- A. Once we had decided where we wanted to go, my friend – who always organises events – booked the tickets.
- B. Much to the annoyance of the passengers, the train (which was heading to Glasgow) had come to a stop on the tracks because a fault had been detected.



VF

10a. Circle the punctuation used for parenthesis in the sentence below.

As morning came, the damage from the storm, which had been causing havoc throughout the night, could be seen clearly across the village and some people were unable to open their doors.



VF

10b. Circle the punctuation used for parenthesis in the sentence below.

As the fog finally cleared, the aeroplane – which had been grounded for over three hours – was given the signal to prepare for take off and the passengers sighed with relief.



VF

11a. Underline the parenthesis in the sentence below.

As the misty, grey fog cleared from the sky, the spectacular views of the city could now be seen, which made the climb worthwhile.



VF

11b. Underline the parenthesis in the sentence below.

As we sat around the campfire with the family, my brother – who is a great musician – started to play a soft tune on his guitar and we all began to sing along.



VF

12a. True or false? Commas are used correctly for parenthesis in the sentences below.

	T	F
A. The triathlon, which consists of cycling, swimming and running, takes place today and starts at twelve o'clock sharp.		
B. Early on Sunday morning, I will be attending a choir performance in church and I am really looking forward to it.		



VF

12b. True or false? Commas are used correctly for parenthesis in the sentences below.

	T	F
A. This evening, the concert begins at seven when the community choir will perform directly after the orchestra, who are opening the show.		
B. Although it was snowing, the children braved the cold and started to build a snowman.		



VF

Varied Fluency Recognising Parenthesis

Developing

- 1a. A uses a pair of commas. B uses a pair of dashes.
- 2a. The children ⊖ who were going to the zoo on a school trip ⊖ had to be in school for half past eight.
- 3a. The trim-trail, which had been recently installed in our playground, was enjoyed by all the children.
- 4a. A is false (brackets have been used). B is true.

Expected

- 5a. A uses a pair of brackets. B uses a pair of dashes.
- 6a. The old, decrepit castle ⊙ which sat on top of the hill ⊙ had been abandoned for hundreds of years and nobody dared to enter it.
- 7a. The vegetable patch – which sat in the allotment – was looked after by my grandad and I used to help him with it during the summer holidays.
- 8a. A is false (there is no parenthesis). B is true.

Greater Depth

- 9a. A uses a pair of brackets. B uses a pair of dashes.
- 10a. As morning came, the damage from the storm ⊙ which had been causing havoc throughout the night ⊙ could be seen clearly across the village and some people were unable to open their doors.
- 11a. As the misty, grey fog cleared from the sky, the spectacular views of the city could now be seen, which made the climb worthwhile.
- 12a. A is true. B is false (there is no parenthesis).

Varied Fluency Recognising Parenthesis

Developing

- 1b. A uses a pair of brackets. B uses a pair of commas.
- 2b. The spotty dog ⊙ which lives at the end of our street ⊙ chases after the postman.
- 3b. The alien – which was green with yellow eyes – had three heads.
- 4b. A is true. B is false (there is no parenthesis).

Expected

- 5b. A uses a pair of brackets. B uses a pair of commas.
- 6b. The old, brown box ⊙ which had been sat in the corner of the attic for many years ⊙ was covered with dust and cobwebs but the key was surprisingly clean.
- 7b. The elegant ballerina – who was about to star in her own stage show – had been training for many years and now her dream had come true.
- 8b. A is true. B is false (there is no parenthesis).

Greater Depth

- 9b. A uses a pair of dashes. B uses a pair of brackets.
- 10b. As the fog finally cleared, the aeroplane ⊖ which had been grounded for over three hours ⊖ was given the signal to prepare for take off and the passengers sighed with relief.
- 11b. As we sat around the campfire with the family, my brother – who is a great musician – started to play a soft tune on his guitar and we all began to sing along.
- 12b. A is true. B is false (there is no parenthesis).