

Perfecting Parenthesis

Within sentences, it is possible to add extra information to give more detail or as an afterthought. If this extra information was left out (because it's extra) the rest of the sentence would still make sense. **Notice the use of parenthesis in the last sentence!**

This extra information is called **parenthesis** and can be punctuated using a **pair of commas, dashes or brackets**. Try to use a variety in your writing to keep it interesting for your reader!

Example:

Friction (which can be helpful or unhelpful) is a force.

Friction - which can stop a moving object - is a force.

Friction, including air resistance, is a force.

Friction (used in bicycle brakes) is a force.

Have a go at putting in some extra information in to the sentences below. The extra information needs to go after the noun (which has been highlighted in **bold**). Think about the punctuation you will use to show the parenthesis - don't use the same one in each sentence.

1. **Parachutes** use air resistance to slow an object down.
2. When skating on ice, **friction** needs to be reduced.
3. Some **metals** are attracted to a magnet.
4. **Gravity** pulls objects towards the Earth.
5. **Sir Isaac Newton** developed a theory of gravity.

Now write 3 sentences of your own that include extra information using parenthesis. Attempt to use a variety of punctuation (commas, dashes or brackets).