

Brackets, Commas and Dashes

When extra information is added to a sentence, it can be enclosed in a pair of brackets, commas or dashes.

The sentence is complete without the information in brackets.

The extra information is called parenthesis.

Look at this example:

Venus (the closest planet to Earth) has a toxic atmosphere.

The original sentence (*Venus has a toxic atmosphere.*) makes sense on its own.

The section in the brackets gives the reader some extra information about Venus.

The sentence could also be written:

Venus, the closest planet to Earth, has a toxic atmosphere.

Venus – the closest planet to Earth – has a toxic atmosphere.

Complete the following sentences by adding the extra information and enclosing it in a pair of brackets, commas or dashes.

MAIN SENTENCE	PARENTHESIS
Jupiter is made mostly of hydrogen and helium.	the largest planet in the Solar System
Mercury does not have any moons.	the smallest planet in the Solar System
Neptune is dark, cold, and very windy.	the last planet in the Solar System
Mars has a thin atmosphere.	a rocky planet
Uranus is the only planet that spins on its side.	an ice giant
Saturn is made mostly of hydrogen and helium.	a gas giant
Earth is the only planet in the Solar System that supports life.	our home

TOP TIP

The parenthesis comes directly after the noun (the name of the planet).