

Parentheses, Brackets, and Dashes

24x. Use parentheses to enclose material that is added to a sentence but is not considered of major importance.

EXAMPLE Two thirds of our class (most are athletes) voted for afternoon games.

24y. Use brackets to enclose an explanation added to quoted or parenthetical material.

EXAMPLE Lucy told us, "I wasn't expecting it [the surprise birthday party] today!"

24z. Use a dash to indicate an abrupt break in thought or speech.

EXAMPLE It's your turn—even though it *is* your birthday—to do the dishes.

EXERCISE A Add parentheses and brackets where they are needed in the following sentences.

Examples 1. Shoshanna (Shanna) and I attended the outing together.

2. Shanna said, "Isn't this [the picnic] as much fun as I said it would be?"

1. Read the article the one on page 5 about keeping dogs as pets.
2. Our school's mascot that's Anne's Newfoundland dog won an award for bravery.
3. The dog otherwise known as Newfie once saved a boy from drowning.
4. Anne said, "Newfie Anne's dog has always loved people."
5. We were paddling a canoe it feels as if it happened yesterday the day of our big outing.
6. Nigel fell overboard everyone was scared and shouted for help.
7. Of everyone children, adults, and pets who was there, only our mascot leapt in to save Nigel.
8. Afterward Nigel said, "He Newfie seemed to come out of nowhere!"
9. Newfie happily chewed on his award a rawhide chew toy while Nigel rested.
10. Both of them Nigel and Newfie are doing well.

EXERCISE B In the following sentences, draw a caret (^) to show where a dash is needed. Then, write the dash above the caret.

Example 1. Would you like my opinion [^]I know you didn't ask for [^]it about a gift?

11. We found the perfect gift Mother will love it to give her on her birthday.
12. I can't believe even though I've seen it that we actually found it.
13. Aren't you surprised I know I am I thought of it first?
14. Let's not tell Dad he won't believe it anyway until she opens the box.
15. Can you keep a secret it's hard to do, I know until next Monday?

Apostrophes F, p. 315

EXERCISE A

1. One person doesn't choose a hurricane's name.
2. They're chosen by scientists' from all over the world.
3. Who's idea was it to give hurricanes people's names?
4. Probably it's an international group's idea.
5. There's a list of names' for each coast.
6. A's and B's begin the names of the first hurricane's of each season.
7. Hurricane Andrew was scientists' choice of name for a hurricane in 1992.
8. I do/n't think I'd want that hurricane to have the same name as I have.
9. Andrew's costly destruction caused many people to see \$'s in their heads!
10. The damage caused by Andrew cost around fifteen billion dollar's—there are a lot of 0's in that number!

EXERCISE B

11. The shells' of these pecan's are hard to crack.
12. They'll be pleased that you accepted their invitation. C
13. I don't usually care for soup, but Theresa's chicken soup is irresistible!
14. If you don't use an apostrophe when referring to several a's, the word looks like as.
15. In her class notes, Norma writes &'s instead of and's.

Hyphens, p. 316

EXERCISE A

Some answers may vary, depending on the dictionary consulted for any given answer.

1. DND
2. rail—road
3. DND
4. sta—tion
5. DND
6. dis—count
7. jump—ing
8. DND
9. over—night
10. tick—et or DND

EXERCISE B

11. ~~sugar-free~~ gelatin
12. a ~~three-fourths~~ success rate
13. ~~39~~ years
14. ~~ex-favorite~~ dessert
15. ~~great-grandfather~~ clock
16. ~~52~~ points
17. ~~governor-elect~~ of Montana
18. ~~self-motivated~~ student
19. ~~all-female~~ soccer team
20. ~~one-third~~ minority

Parentheses, Brackets, and Dashes, p. 317

EXERCISE A

Answers may vary slightly.

1. Read the article (the one on page 5) about keeping dogs as pets.
2. Our school's mascot (that's Anne's Newfoundland dog) won an award for bravery.
3. The dog (otherwise known as Newfie) once saved a boy from drowning.

4. Anne said, “Newfie [Anne’s dog] has always loved people.”
5. We were paddling a canoe (it feels as if it happened yesterday) the day of our big outing.
6. Nigel fell overboard (everyone was scared) and shouted for help.
7. Of everyone (children, adults, and pets) who was there, only our mascot leapt in to save Nigel.
8. Afterward Nigel said, “He [Newfie] seemed to come out of nowhere!”
9. Newfie happily chewed on his award (a rawhide chew toy) while Nigel rested.
10. Both of them (Nigel and Newfie) are doing well.
5. Byron’s long poem titled Don Juan fills an entire book!
6. “Here’s my copy of Anne of Green Gables,” said Mother.
7. USA Today covers the news of all fifty states.
8. “Did Columbus sail on the Santa María or on another ship?” asked Larry.
9. Everybody Loves Raymond is Uncle Emil’s favorite television series.
10. Kelly exclaimed, “Look, that hockey game we saw is on the cover of Sports Illustrated!”

EXERCISE B

11. We found the perfect gift ^ Mother will love it ^ to give her on her birthday.
12. I can’t believe ^ even though I’ve seen it ^ that we actually found it.
13. Aren’t you surprised ^ I know I am ^ I thought of it first?
14. Let’s not tell Dad ^ he won’t believe it anyway ^ until she opens the box.
15. Can you keep a secret ^ it’s hard to do, I know ^ until next Monday?
11. Listen to this recording of The Rite of Spring.
12. “When I was a child,” said Aunt Minnie, “the U.S. flag had forty-eight stars.”
13. The episode showing tonight is “Crisis in Central City.”
14. His article, “How to Excel in Soccer,” will be published soon.
15. Who said, “It’s one thing to build castles in the air; it’s another thing to live in them”?
16. One third of my cousin’s shelf is filled with Seventeen magazines.
17. “I need two more weeks,” she said, “to finish reading them all.”
18. Poems such as Edward Lear’s “The Owl and the Pussycat” are nonsense poems.
19. When I return The Yearling, I’ll owe the library about twenty-five cents.
20. “Did you finish reading it?” Mrs. Casper asked.

Review A: Underlining (Italics) and Quotation Marks, p. 318

EXERCISE

1. Many Walt Disney films, such as Bambi and The Jungle Book, are back again.
2. Sometimes I listen to Ravel’s famous Boléro when I study.
3. Aunt Fran sent our family a subscription to the magazine Birds and Blooms.
4. Dad suggested, “Read the article called ‘Best Buys in Bicycle Helmets.’”
18. Poems such as Edward Lear’s “The Owl and the Pussycat” are nonsense poems.
19. When I return The Yearling, I’ll owe the library about twenty-five cents.
20. “Did you finish reading it?” Mrs. Casper asked.