

PARENTHESES

parentheses serve as a mark to indicate additional information within a sentence. The parenthetical material inserted in a sentence could be a word, a fragment, or could even be single or multiple sentences.

When using parentheses, certain rules must be followed.

- parentheses to clarify and add information

parentheses can enclose additional information to clarify the meaning of a text. The inserted world can be nonessential to the overall meaning of the text.

Example:

1. He told the students (after thinking for 5 minutes) that they could visit the zoo after the trip to the museum.
2. All teachers must wear their uniform. (Refer to the handbook page 15.)
3. The association will be here next week (August 3).
4. The government (under democratic rule) will aid the rural hospitals.

- Period inside the parentheses

A period is placed only inside the parentheses if the element enclosed is a complete sentence. However, if the enclosed sentence is part of the main sentence, the period is removed.

Examples:

1. Make sure to visit Ocean Park. (You'll be amazed.)
2. Make sure to visit Ocean Park (you'll be amazed).
3. I met the main actor in my favorite TV series. (It was an awesome experience.)
4. My phone (my auntie gave me on my birthday) got lost at school.

- parentheses can never be part of the subject.

Despite being part of the subject line, parentheses can never be a subject.

Examples:

1. James (and his sisters) is planning to travel next month.
2. My friend Jason (accompanied by his sisters) has received my invitation last week.
3. Jeremy (with his company) will fly to Iraq tomorrow.
4. The chief officer (together with his members) is implementing a new law.

- parentheses are usually followed by a comma, and not before them.

Commas usually follow the parentheses within a sentence.

Examples:

1. When he left (it was already raining), his mum called me.
2. Since I have lots of potatoes (given by my friends), I will try to bake them tonight.
3. Because of the movie (Spiderman), my son asked me to buy him a similar costume.
4. When the man was convicted (because of theft), his family could not do anything but cry.

EXERCISES

- parentheses to clarify and add information

parentheses can enclose additional information to clarify the meaning of a text. The inserted world can be nonessential to the overall meaning of the text.

Enclose the correct word/words with parentheses to avoid confusion.

1. We verified her bachelor's degree UM, class of 2010, but her work history could not be traced.
2. The manager wearing a black suit showed appreciation to the employees.
3. We need to clean the living room it is quite a mess now because my parents will arrive soon.
4. Because guests are arriving soon this Friday, we need to go to the grocery.
5. James my best friend is coming with me to the prom.

6. Last week, Michelle a practicing doctor saved a boy from the accident.

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However, if the enclosed sentence is part of the main sentence, the period is removed.

Correct the punctuation in the following sentences.

1. The movie last night was scary (it scared me a lot.)
2. My mother brought me a gift. "I was very excited".
3. The company announced a new CEO. "I was feeling nervous"
4. My dad shouted at me angrily (I was trembling.)
5. The lady gave me a scary look (it made me shiver,).
6. Things will be different now. "I am feeling relieved."

- parentheses can never be part of the subject.

Despite being part of the subject line, parentheses can never be a subject.

Enclose in parentheses the words that are considered as non-essential and are not part of the subject.

1. The King surrounded by his cabinet members should stick to the rule of law.
2. My friends and I together with my relatives will visit the research center next week.
3. The police with my father went to investigate the crime scene near our house.
4. My boss with his wife could not attend the wedding.
5. The lady officer accompanied by police dogs was chasing the criminal along the dark alley.
6. Mr. John with his daughter will pay a visit to his mum in the neighboring town.

- parentheses is usually followed by a comma, and not before them.

Commas usually follow the parentheses within a sentence.

Identify the fragment to be enclosed in parentheses then place a comma after it.

1. Since he left the house around 7 last night my mum never stopped calling him.

2. Because of the new policy limit class visitation some students have started to make a noise.
3. Since his passion is fishing he grew up near the lake he created a group with people who have a similar interest.
4. In order to repay her kindness guiding us every day we gave a flower and chocolate on her birthday.
5. Since it is already dark 11 PM students were prohibited to go outside the hotel.
6. Because of the new subjects offered at school Global Perspectives and Computer Science electives the school fee has been increased.

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1. We verified her bachelor's degree UM, class of 2010, but her work history could not be traced.
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ANSWER KEY

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Answers:

1. We verified her bachelor's degree (UM, class of 2010), but her work history could not be traced.
2. The manager (wearing a black suit) showed appreciation to the employees.
3. We need to clean the living room (it is quite a mess now) because my parents will arrive soon.
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Answers

1. The King (surrounded by his cabinet members) should stick to the rule of law.
2. My friends and I (together with my relatives) will visit the research center next week.
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Identify the fragment to be enclosed in parentheses then place a comma after it.

Answers:

1. Since he left the house (around 7 last night), my mum never stopped calling him.
2. Because of the new policy (limit class visitation), some students have started to make a noise.
3. Since his passion is fishing (he grew up near the lake), he created a group with people who have a similar interest.
4. In order to repay her kindness (guiding us every day), we gave a flower and chocolate on her birthday.
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Answers:

7. We verified her bachelor's degree (UM, class of 2010), but her work history could not be traced.
8. The manager (wearing a black suit) showed appreciation to the employees.
9. We need to clean the living room (it is quite a mess now) because my parents will arrive soon.
10. Because guests are arriving soon (this Friday), we need to go to the grocery.
11. James (my best friend) is coming with me to the prom.
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