

Chapter 1 : Brackets (Parentheses)

Brackets are far less common than parentheses, and they are only used in special cases. Brackets (like single quotation marks) are used exclusively within quoted material. Rule 1.

Grammar rules form the basis of the English language. Learn grammar and improve your writing. Parentheses enclose information and separate it from the main idea of the sentence or paragraph. They should be used only when necessary. Parenthesis is the singular form of parentheses, but these marks are always used in pairs.

Parenthetical Elements Use parentheses to set off ideas that function as asides in a sentence or paragraph. Parenthetical information can be removed without altering the meaning of a sentence or paragraph. Parentheses are used in many situations:

- Explanations** Boudicca led the Iceni an independent British people against the Romans.
- Translations** We had erdbeerkuchen strawberry cake for dessert.
- Clarifications** My dog an Akita is the smallest of the giant breeds.
- Joking around** We set up our tent we pretended we were in the wilderness in the backyard.
- Talking to the reader** Joshua served a souffle that he had made himself.

Punctuation with Parentheses Punctuation with parentheses is very similar to punctuation with quotation marks.

- Periods** Parenthetical sentence at the end of a sentence If the information in the parentheses is a separate, complete sentence, the period at the end of the sentence goes inside the parentheses. We spent two hours at the zoo. Most of us could have spent two hours watching the otters. Notice how the first sentence ended before the parenthetical expression started. This means that the sentence inside the parentheses must start with a capital letter.
- Parenthetical phrase at the end of a sentence** If you use a phrase in other words, an incomplete sentence in parentheses at the end of a sentence, the period goes outside the parentheses. We ordered three pepperoni pizzas my favorite.
- Parenthetical sentence in the middle of a sentence** A complete parenthetical sentence in the middle of a sentence does not require a period. The first letter of the parenthetical sentence is not capitalized because it is in the middle of the main sentence, not after it. Our two hour final it was our longest exam included a three page essay.
- Commas** Commas generally go outside the parentheses.
- Question marks and exclamation marks** If the parenthetical comment itself is an exclamation or question, the exclamation or question mark goes inside the parentheses. Ana got a the only one in the class! It was her 12th perfect score in a row.

Conventions with Parentheses Numbers or letters in a list Make sure you include 1 your cover sheet, 2 your essay, and 3 your bibliography. Area codes His phone number is Beginning and end dates William Shakespeare wrote 38 plays.

Brackets [] separate and enclose information. They are used less frequently than parentheses and are most often used in relation to quotations.

Brackets with Quotations Use brackets to enclose words that you have added or changed in a quotation. Also use brackets for explanations within a quotation. Using [sic] in a Quotation Use [sic] to show that an error in a quotation is from the original source. Jennifer wrote, "My pupy [sic] is named Joe.

English grammar Exercises are reserved for account holders.

Chapter 2 : Parentheses and brackets () [] | Oxford Dictionaries

Before we move on, we need to address one issue: how to use terminal punctuation marks with parentheses. If your sentence starts with an opening parenthesis, then what's inside your parentheses is a complete sentence.

Check new design of our homepage! However, a lot of people find it confusing to use them appropriately. Penlighten explains the correct use of parentheses and brackets with suitable examples. Penlighten Staff Last Updated: Oct 20, Commonly Known As Parentheses is commonly referred to as brackets, round brackets, curved brackets, oval brackets, and the like. Whereas, brackets are referred to as square brackets or crotchets. Although, omitting brackets do not make a sentence grammatically wrong, they are required to provide reference from the original script. The sentence without this particular information would still sound perfectly meaningful and logical. In this sentence, the text without the parentheses makes perfect sense; parentheses simply provides an extra bit about the main topic. It is important to note that parentheses can contain either a partial or complete sentences. Using terminal punctuations like periods, exclamatory marks, question marks, etc. In case parentheses contains a partial sentence, the terminal punctuation should not be included inside the parenthesis. The sentence above contains a partial sentence in the parentheses, and therefore, the period is used at the end outside the parentheses of the sentence, and not inside the parentheses. However, if parentheses consists of a whole sentence, then the terminal punctuation should be used before the closing parenthesis. He was convicted for murdering Mr. How is it possible? I had studied very hard for this exam. The movie is very enlightening. I watched it twice. Should they come before or after parentheses? Commas should necessarily follow parentheses and not precede them. Although Ronald likes beef burgers accompanied with fries and beer , he has a severe allergy to beef. Using single inverted commas in parentheses is acceptable; check out an example. When to Use Brackets Brackets, unlike parentheses, are more crucial in terms of understanding of a sentence or excerpt. However, the latter is more commonly used than the former. Brackets are mostly used in quotations to provide reference to the context. Hence, brackets solve the purpose of clarifying content without altering it in any way. Brackets are added to explain, comment, correct, or interpolate content present in the original quotation or statement. One of the purposes of using brackets, as mentioned earlier, is to add text to an original piece of content. Another purpose of using a bracket is when using parentheses within parentheses. He dressed shabbily and behaved in a idiotic way he was annoying [a weirdo! Another instance where brackets come handy is when changing case of a letter. Consider movie reviews or situations where a quoted statement is rewritten. In such cases, it sometimes becomes essential to change a letter from lower case to upper case or the converse. Also, the second bracket used hints towards a particular speech of Martin Luther King, hence allowing the reader to easily associate. A last case in which a bracket is used is when a writer feels the need to point out a grammatical error in a quoted statement or text, which can be mistaken for a transcription error. To achieve this purpose, an adverb sic is used. To quickly put both parentheses and brackets in a nutshell: Parentheses is used to provide extra information about the main topic in the statement or excerpt, whereas a bracket is used to clarify, explain, correct, or comment over a quoted statement.

Chapter 3 : Proper Use of Parentheses and Brackets Explained With Examples

Parentheses and brackets () [] Round Brackets Round brackets (also called parentheses, especially in American English) are mainly used to separate off information that isn't essential to the meaning of the rest of the sentence.

Parentheses and Brackets Inquire: Clarify, Contextualize, and Conquer Overview While parentheses and brackets have evolved to become smiles and grimaces in the world of emoticons, they both have practical foundations in the world of writing. Using them in your work can help provide context to your reader and allow for a smoother means of conveying information. In this lesson, we will look at how parentheses and brackets should be used in your writing. **Big Question** How do we use parentheses and brackets? **Context and Clarification with Parentheses and Brackets Read: How to Use Parentheses and Brackets Overview** Parentheses and brackets look rather similar, only one is slightly curved and the other is squared off. However, despite their like appearance, each of these punctuation marks has a particular function and they cannot be used in place of one another. **Parentheses** Parentheses or parenthesis, in singular form are most commonly used to share information within a greater body of text. This parenthetical information is usually non-essential for the sentence to work but can offer clarification or further information on the subject at hand. If you happen to run into Simon the veterinarian , be sure to ask him about his father. As with other punctuation, there are rules to follow in using parentheses correctly. Anytime you have a set of parentheses at the end of a sentence, make sure to put the period of the sentence on the outside of the second parenthesis. If your parenthetical information is a complete sentence, then it should be treated grammatically correctly with a period at the end of the sentence, falling within the parentheses. I greatly enjoy going to the movies. This rule applies to other forms of punctuation as well. Whether it be an exclamation point or a question mark, be sure to place it in the proper location. You prefer an aisle seat am I remembering that correctly? Parenthetical information can also be delivered using em dashes. If you choose to use dashes over parentheses, it will add more emphasis to the information. Parentheses, on the other hand, will offer a subtler delivery. Neither parentheses or em dashes are right or wrong per se; their use is just a matter of style. **Brackets** Brackets may appear to be similar to parentheses, but their function is quite different and much more limited. Brackets are used for adding information to quoted text. Whether you are quoting from another form of writing or directly from a speaker, adding bracketed information can give the quote proper context to make it easier for the reader to understand. **Poll** Would you choose parentheses or dashes for the parenthetical information in the following sentence? Alternately, you can place an abbreviation or acronym in parentheses following the first instance of the full term. This indicates that the abbreviation or acronym will be used for the remainder of the text. Tomorrow, he will undergo a computerized axial tomography CAT scan. When this is the case, you will use brackets for the inner set of parentheses. Please consider removing and [properly] disposing of all harmful materials from the play area. **Parentheses are Not Part of the Subject** Keep in mind that parenthetical information is not part of the subject of a sentence, so the verb you choose should not refer to it. Maggie and her producers does not know how to write a good song. **Braces** If you look at your keyboard, you may notice that the bracket key has a shift option, giving you access to another pair of bracket-like punctuation marks. These punctuation marks, informally referred to as curly brackets, are known as braces.

Chapter 4 : Mathwords: Interval Notation

The difference between a 'bracket' and a 'parentheses' can be a bit confusing. Generally, 'parentheses' refers to round brackets () and 'brackets' to square brackets [].

Desiderius Erasmus coined the term *lunula* to refer to the rounded parentheses, recalling the shape of the crescent moon. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. March Learn how and when to remove this template message Some of the following names are regional or contextual. Sometimes referred to as angle brackets, in such cases as HTML markup. Occasionally known as broken brackets or "brokets". In English, typographers mostly prefer to not set brackets in italics, even when the enclosed text is italic. For other uses, see disambiguation. Due to technical restrictions, titles like ": For typographical portrayals of faces, see Emoticon. In American usage, parentheses are usually considered separate from other brackets, and calling them "brackets" is unusual. Parentheses may be used in formal writing to add supplementary information, such as "Sen. John McCain R-Arizona spoke at length". They can also indicate shorthand for "either singular or plural" for nouns, e. It can also be used for gender neutral language, especially in languages with grammatical gender, e. Parentheses have historically been used where the dash is currently used in alternatives, such as "parenthesis parentheses". Parentheses may be nested generally with one set such as this inside another set. Yes, that was her name! Parenthesized text is usually short and within a single sentence. Where several sentences of supplemental material are used in parentheses the final full stop would be within the parentheses, or simply omitted. Again, the parenthesis implies that the meaning and flow of the text is supplemental to the rest of the text and the whole would be unchanged were the parenthesized sentences removed. In more formal usage, "parenthesis" may refer to the entire bracketed text, not just to the punctuation marks used so all the text in this set of round brackets may be said to be "a parenthesis", "a parenthetical", or "a parenthetical phrase".

Chapter 5 : Parentheses and Brackets | Punctuation Rules

While parentheses and brackets have evolved to become smiles and grimaces in the world of emoticons, they both have practical foundations in the world of writing. Using them in your work can help provide context to your reader and allow for a smoother means of conveying information.

Parentheses and brackets must never be used interchangeably. Use parentheses to enclose information that clarifies or is used as an aside. He finally answered after taking five minutes to think that he did not understand the question. If material in parentheses ends a sentence, the period goes after the parentheses. Commas could have been used in the first example; a colon could have been used in the second example. The use of parentheses indicates that the writer considered the information less important—almost an afterthought. Periods go inside parentheses only if an entire sentence is inside the parentheses. Please read the analysis. This is a rule with a lot of wiggle room. An entire sentence in parentheses is often acceptable without an enclosed period: Take care to punctuate correctly when punctuation is required both inside and outside parentheses. Note the question mark within the parentheses. The period after the parentheses is necessary to bring the entire sentence to a close. Parentheses, despite appearances, are not part of the subject. Joe and his trusty mutt was always welcome. If this seems awkward, try rewriting the sentence: Joe accompanied by his trusty mutt was always welcome. Commas are more likely to follow parentheses than precede them. When he got home, it was already dark outside he fixed dinner. When he got home it was already dark outside , he fixed dinner. Brackets Brackets are far less common than parentheses, and they are only used in special cases. Brackets like single quotation marks are used exclusively within quoted material. They are used to explain or comment on the quotation. When quoting something that has a spelling or grammar mistake or presents material in a confusing way, insert the term *sic* in italics and enclose it in nonitalic unless the surrounding text is italic brackets. *Sic* "thus" in Latin is shorthand for, "This is exactly what the original material says. She wrote, "I would rather die than [sic] be seen wearing the same outfit as my sister. In formal writing, brackets are often used to maintain the integrity of both a quotation and the sentences others use it in. Are you ready for the quiz?

Chapter 6 : Bracket - Wikipedia

Like hot dogs and heartburn, parentheses and brackets always come in pairs. But unlike tube steaks and burps, parentheses and brackets are not at all the same.

Brackets, Parentheses, and Ellipses Parentheses are most often used to identify material that acts as an aside such as this brief comment or to add incidental information. Other punctuation marks used alongside parentheses need to take into account their context. If the parentheses enclose a full sentence beginning with a capital letter, then the end punctuation for the sentence falls inside the parentheses. Typically, suppliers specify air to cloth ratios of 6: However, ratios of 4: In a study comparing three different building types, respirable dust concentrations were significantly lower in the open-structure building Hugh et al. You can also use parentheses to provide acronyms or full names for acronyms. If you open a parenthesis, you need another to close it! Practice Have the parentheses been used correctly in the following sentences? Correct any errors you find. Michael lost the wrestling competition. He also lost his temper. Even parentheses are only used to cite information at the end of a sentence. A corrected version of the sentence would look something like these: Parentheses can be used to enclose the full name of an acronym. Brackets Brackets are a fairly uncommon punctuation mark. Their main use is in quotations: For example, say you want to quote the following passage: I had a really great time with him. He was a lot taller than expected, though. In order to do this, you would write the following: When using brackets, you need to be careful not to change the original meaning of the quote. Another use of brackets is when there is a spelling or informational error in the original quote. Practice Read the following passages. Imagine you want to quote the numbered sentences. Each sentence would appear separately. Use brackets to indicate the best way to do so. It is one of several volcanoes which form the Campanian volcanic arc. This quote would not need any brackets. As with most punctuation marks, there is some contention about its usage. The main point of contention is whether or not there should be a space between the periods. Others you may encounter, such as in journalism, may not. Look at the following quote for an example: Diplodocus seems to have been well-adapted, despite its weaker skull, to a form of feeding known as branch stripping, where leaves are plucked from branches as the teeth are dragged along them. The increased flexibility of the neck of Diplodocus compared to other sauropods seems to support this too. Diplodocus seems to have been well-adapted. By looking at two sympatric species those that lived together from the fossil graveyards of the Late Jurassic of North America. Just remember to put it back in! Sauropod dinosaurs are the biggest animals to have ever walked on land. They are instantly recognized by their long, sweeping necks and whiplashed tails, and nearly always portrayed moving in herds, being stalked by hungry predators. In recent years, a huge amount of taxonomic effort from scientists has vastly increased the number of known species of sauropod. What we now know is that in many areas we had two or more species co-existing alongside each other. A question that arises from this, is how did we have animals that seem so similar, and with such high energy and dietary requirements, living alongside one another? Was there some sort of spinach-like super plant that gave them all Popeye-like physical boosts, or something more subtle? Show Answer The first ellipsis should follow a period, and the second should follow a comma. They are instantly recognized by their long, sweeping necks and whiplashed tails. This use is typically informal, and is only be used in casual correspondence e. Because this use occurs in literature, you may find yourself quoting a passage that already has an ellipsis in it. Well, I must say, Algernon, that I think it is high time that Mr. Bunbury made up his mind whether he was going to live or to die. This shilly-shallying with the question is absurd. Nor do I in any way approve of the modern sympathy with invalids. I consider it morbid. Illness of any kind is hardly a thing to be encouraged in others. Health is the primary duty of life. I am always telling that to your poor uncle, but he never seems to take much notice. I should be much obliged if you would ask Mr. Bunbury, from me, to be kind enough not to have a relapse on Saturday, for I rely on you to arrange my music for me. It is my last reception, and one wants something that will encourage conversation, particularly at the end of the season when every one has practically said whatever they had to say, which, in most cases, was probably not much. So how can we indicate that this is not the case? In a similar practice, we can enclose

the ellipsis in brackets to show it appeared in the original work: I am always telling that to your poor uncle, but he never seems to take much notice [. Licenses and Attributions Revision and Adaptation. Attribution Modification of Mount Vesuvius errors added. The Pennsylvania State University. Green Tea and Velociraptors.

Chapter 7 : English Grammar - Additional Punctuation, Lesson 7: Parentheses and Brackets

Definition: Parentheses () enclose information and separate it from the main idea of the sentence or paragraph. They should be used only when necessary. It's better in formal writing to rewrite sentences to avoid using parentheses and brackets.

Chapter 8 : Bracket (mathematics) - Wikipedia

Punctuation Junction: A series about what happens when punctuation marks collide. Parentheses and brackets are used to enclose and set off material from the main text. Although writers usually need only one set of parentheses or brackets at a time, for more complex material they may need an.

Chapter 9 : Braces, Brackets, and Parentheses

Parentheses are used to group numbers or variables, or both. When you see a math problem containing parentheses, you need to use the order of operations to solve it. Take as an example the problem: $9 - 5 \cdot (8 - 3) \times 2 + 6$ You must calculate the operation within the parentheses first, even if it is.