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| **Grammar Masters: Teacher’s Notes**  **Topic: Parenthesis** |
| Parenthesis is a word or phrase added as an explanation, to provide extra information, as an afterthought or as an aside in a sentence that would be complete without it. Parentheses are usually punctuated with commas, brackets or dashes. Brackets themselves are also called parentheses.  Parentheses can be used for the following purposes:   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **For clarity** | The creature was detested (hated). | | **As an explanation** | Photosynthesis (the process of converting sunlight to food) is used by most plants. | | **As an aside** | He was lying (what a surprise) and no one seemed to notice. | | **To add additional information** | New pupils (especially from other countries) find it difficult to adjust to school. | | **To add an example as a list** | My friends – Amy, Rajan and Ling – are in Australia this week.  Japanese, Germans, Chinese – all nationalities visit London. |  * Punctuating with brackets is the most common way to punctuate a parenthesis: Never trust a lion (if you know what is good for you). * Punctuating with commas gives the parenthesis less emphasis than brackets: Never trust a lion, if you know what is good for you. * Punctuating with dashes gives the parenthesis more emphasis than brackets: Never trust a lion – if you know what is good for you.   **Punctuation rules**   * Only put a full stop inside the brackets if the parenthesis is a complete sentence and stands alone: She went out. (Well, we all expected that.) * Put a question mark or an exclamation at the end if appropriate: She loved my brother (why?) but hated me. She loved my brother (what an idiot!) but hated me. |

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