

Within sentences, it is possible to add extra information to give more detail or as an afterthought. If this extra information was left out (because it's extra) the rest of the sentence would still make sense. **Notice the use of parenthesis in the last sentence!**

This extra information is called **parenthesis** and can be punctuated using a **pair of commas**, **dashes or brackets**. Try to use a variety in your writing to keep it interesting for your reader!

## Example

**The Tyrannosaurus Rex is a huge dinosaur.**

- The Tyrannosaurus Rex, **which is a carnivore**, is a huge dinosaur.
- The Tyrannosaurus Rex **(40 feet tall)** is a huge dinosaur.
- The Tyrannosaurus Rex **– or just T-Rex –** is a huge dinosaur.
- The Tyrannosaurus Rex **(one of the most feared creatures to ever live)** is a huge dinosaur.

**Have a go at putting in some extra information in to the sentences below.**

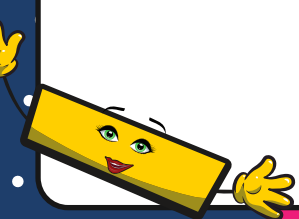
**Think about the punctuation you will use to show the parenthesis – don't use the same one in each sentence.**

- My friend \_\_\_\_\_ is a huge fan of dinosaurs.
- A famous Hollywood Blockbuster \_\_\_\_\_ features a storyline involving dinosaurs.
- Dinosaurs \_\_\_\_\_ are closely related to birds.
- Palaeontologists \_\_\_\_\_ believe dinosaurs aren't fully extinct.

- Some dinosaurs were carnivores \_\_\_\_\_ whereas some ate plants.
- There were some dinosaurs \_\_\_\_\_ that were able to reach in to the tallest trees for their food.
- The meat-eating dinosaurs were predators \_\_\_\_\_ and were feared by other dinosaurs.
- A Triceratops \_\_\_\_\_ was a plant-eating dinosaur.
- Predator dinosaurs \_\_\_\_\_ were able to rip and tear meat for their diet.
- A long time ago \_\_\_\_\_ the dinosaurs became extinct.

Now write **3 sentences** of your own that include extra information using parenthesis.  
Attempt to use a variety of punctuation (commas, dashes or brackets).

- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Relative Clauses

You may have noticed that some of the parenthesis examples above are actually examples of **relative clauses**. This is because a relative clause is a type of parenthesis as it is extra information. It directly links to the noun which you are describing or modifying – it is relative (related) to it. The sentence would still make sense without a relative clause and can still be punctuated using a pair of **commas, dashes or brackets**. A relative clause starts with a **relative pronoun: who, which, where, whom, that, whose**.

### Example

Dinosaurs are reptiles.

Dinosaurs (who lived over 200 million years ago) are reptiles.

Now try to add your own relative clause to each of these sentences. Think about varying your punctuation between a pair of commas, dashes or brackets.

– The word dinosaur \_\_\_\_\_ means 'terrible lizard'. (clue: Greek language)

– Meat-eating dinosaurs \_\_\_\_\_ hunt for their prey. (clue: what is a meat-eating dinosaur called?)

– The three-horned dinosaur \_\_\_\_\_ has a frill around its neck to defend itself from predators. (clue: name of three-horned dinosaur)

– Dinosaurs \_\_\_\_\_ are closely linked to birds. (clue: feathers and beaks)

– The study of dinosaurs \_\_\_\_\_ looks at fossils of dinosaur remains. (clue: palaeontologists)

Have a go at writing your own sentence now using a relative clause as parenthesis.  
Think of a noun and 2 pieces of information to describe it.

One piece of information goes inside the punctuation with a relative clause at the start,  
the other is your main clause. E.g.

*1. Dinosaurs are reptiles.*

*2. Dinosaurs became extinct 65 million years ago.*

**BECOMES**

Dinosaurs (which became extinct 65 million years ago) are reptiles.

**OR**

Dinosaurs (which are reptiles) became extinct 65 million years ago.

Your examples:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

For more help please watch our 'Sing with Grammarsaurus' video on the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AseBaZWID7w>

