Parenthesis

↺ Recap
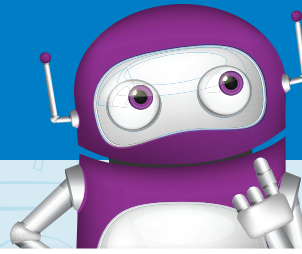
What is parenthesis?

Parenthesis is the term used for a word, clause or phrase that is inserted into a sentence to provide more detail.
- Parenthesis is what is written inside **brackets**.
- **Commas** and **dashes** can do the same job as brackets.

📄 Revise

KEY WORDS

parenthesis
brackets
commas
dashes

Parenthesis does not make any difference to the understanding of the original sentence. It just gives the reader more information.

The following sentence gives a piece of information:

The Eiffel Tower is a very tall building.

By adding parenthesis, more detail is given but the meaning remains the same:

The Eiffel Tower (which is in Paris) is a very tall building.

↖ ↑ ↗

parenthesis with brackets

Commas and pairs of dashes can do the same job as brackets:

The Eiffel Tower, which is in Paris, is a very tall building.

↖ ↑ ↗

parenthesis with commas

The Eiffel Tower – which is in Paris – is a very tall building.

↖ ↑ ↗

parenthesis with dashes

Dashes tend to be used in less formal writing, such as in an email.

Remember, parenthesis is the information you add, not the punctuation around it.