Using Brackets for Parenthesis

The Narcissus (daffodil) is a spring plant with yellow petals.

Parenthesis: extra information or an afterthought in our writing. This could be a word, phrase or sentence. If you took the parenthesis away, our writing would still be complete.

Only put brackets around the actual parenthesis.

My brother (the one who lives in Australia) is coming to visit.

I want to be a camera operator when I grow up. (It looks exciting.)

Let's remind ourselves of how to use punctuation for parenthesis
Where do I put the brackets?

Only put brackets around the parenthesis itself.

Check that your sentence still makes sense if you don't read the bit you have put in brackets.

Which sentence has the brackets in the right place?

a) Some people (don't like the rain) especially in England but I do.
b) Some people don't like the rain (especially in England but I do.)
c) Some people don't like the rain (especially in England) but I do.
Where do I put the brackets?

Which sentence had the brackets in the right place?

a) Some people (don't like the rain) especially in England but I do.
b) Some people don't like the rain (especially in England but I do.)
c) Some people don't like the rain (especially in England) but I do.

Sentence ‘c’ has the brackets around the parenthesis (the extra bit of information). The sentence still makes sense without this piece of information.
Dashes to Show Parenthesis

The Double Dash

The dash is a punctuation mark which can be used when you want to emphasise additional information.

Dashes may be used in pairs when they separate the words from the surrounding text.

For example:

The man was plainly dressed - so he would not be noticed in a black suit.

There is a space on either side of the dash.

The sentence would still make sense without the part within the dashes.

This part of the sentence gives extra information so this part could be removed.

The Dramatic Dash

Whereas brackets must always be used in pairs, only one dash is required if the parenthesis comes at the beginning or end of a sentence. A dash found by itself can be used to separate something dramatic (and usually contrasting) at the end of a sentence from the start of the sentence.

The idea is to shock/surprise the reader at the very end of the sentence.

For example:

It was a long wait - perhaps the longest of his life.

This sentence would still make sense without the part after the dash.

There should be a space before and after the dash.

This information creates a surprise at the end of the sentence.
Definition of a Dash

Dashes can perform a similar function to brackets, surrounding additional information in a sentence.

Example: The train – which was late – was heading to Paris.

Take care not to confuse dashes and hyphens.

Dashes are long marks —.

Hyphens are short marks –.

Interesting Fact

On old-fashioned typewriters, two hyphens typed one after the other were used instead of a dash.
Parenthesis

We use a dash to add additional information, this extra information is called a parenthesis.

There is a space on either side of the dash.

Example

The man was plainly dressed – so he would not be noticed – in a black suit.

The sentence would still make sense without the part within the dashes.

This part of the sentence gives extra information so this part could be removed.

When a parenthesis is completely removed, the sentence is still grammatically correct.

Example: The man was plainly dressed in a black suit.

A parenthesis can be separated from the rest of the sentence by commas, dashes, or brackets (all called parentheses).
The Double Dash

Two dashes can mark out extra information inserted into a sentence which is grammatically complete without it, similar to brackets.

Example
James Bond – though I can’t quite believe how – jumped straight over the car, rolled and ran off into the woods.

The dashes here add extra information to the sentence like brackets would, but they draw more attention to what is written.

Have a go at using a dash in this way on your whiteboard.
Task: Create a sentence about James Bond which uses dashes to add parenthesis.
**Commas to Indicate Parenthesis**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commas are used before and after an embedded clause (a group of words that includes a subject and a verb).</th>
<th>The embedded clause is put into a sentence to add additional detail for the reader but the sentence would be grammatically complete without it.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The embedded clause does not make sense by itself.</td>
<td>Starting the embedded clause with where, which, who or when is a useful tool to help when first using embedded clauses. When the clause starts in this way we call it a relative clause.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Example 1:**
```
The spy, who blended into the crowd, scanned his surroundings for danger.
         ↑
         embedded relative cause
```

**Example 2:**
```
Celia, who loved animals, searched for the lost cat.
         ↑
         embedded relative cause
```
Embedded Clauses

The word embedded means 'within'.

An embedded clause is another way of using a subordinate clause – by dropping it into the middle of a sentence. This time you need two commas, one either side of the clause.

Celia, who loved animals, searched for the lost cat.

The embedded clause is a parenthesis.

Parenthesis = a word or phrase inserted as an explanation or afterthought into a passage which is grammatically complete (the sentence makes sense) without it.