

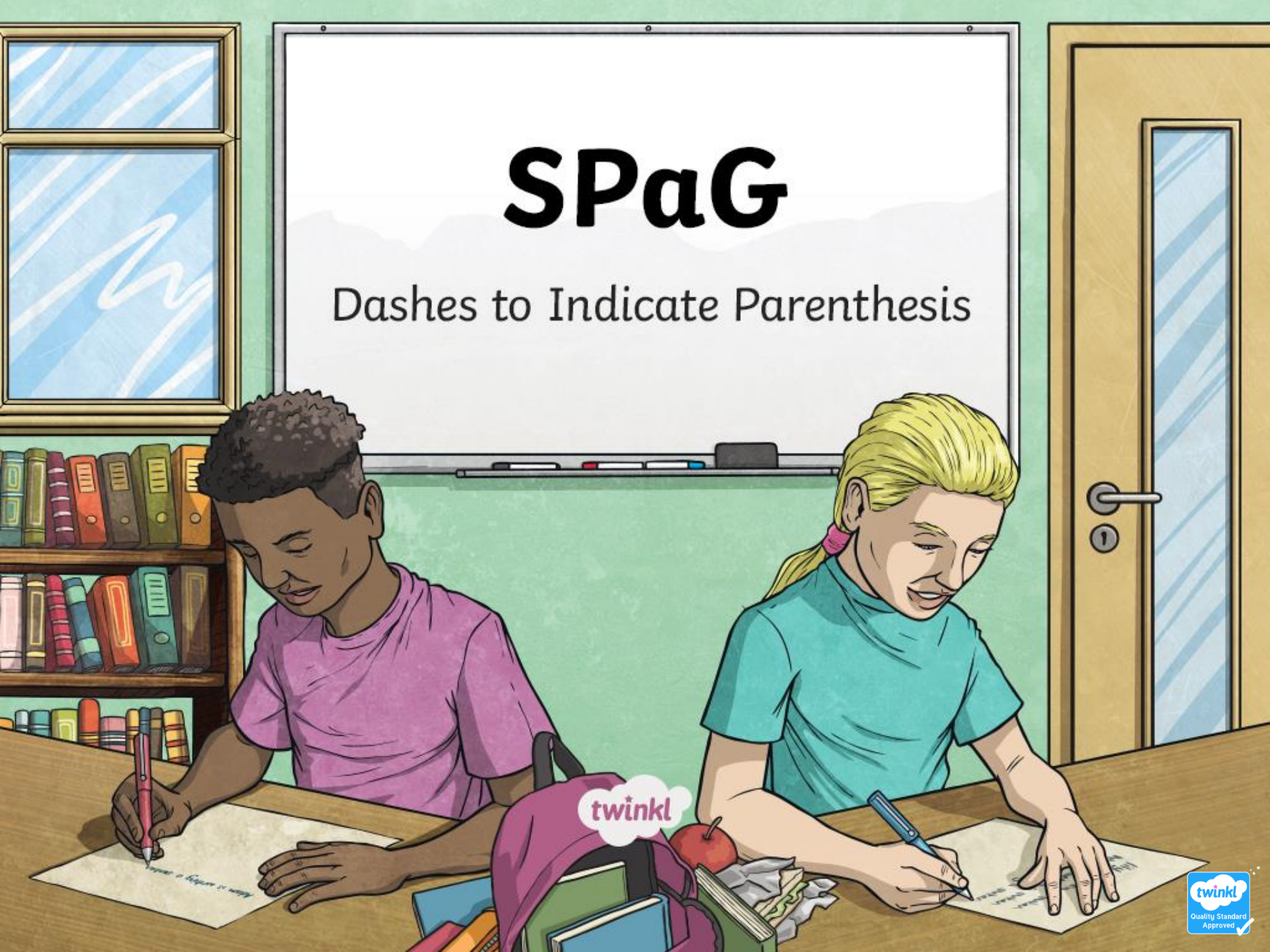


English

Dashes to Indicate Parenthesis

SPaG

Dashes to Indicate Parenthesis



twinkl

Aim

- To use dashes to show parenthesis.

Success Criteria

- I can explain that dashes surround additional information in a sentence.
- I can explain how dashes can be used on their own or in pairs.
- I can identify where dashes belong.
- I can create my own sentences which use dashes to show parenthesis.
- I can explain the difference between dashes, paired commas and brackets.

The Double Dash



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.

Interesting Fact

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

in the middle of words with no spaces.



The Double Dash



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

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.

Have a go at using a dash in this way on your whiteboard.

what has been added.

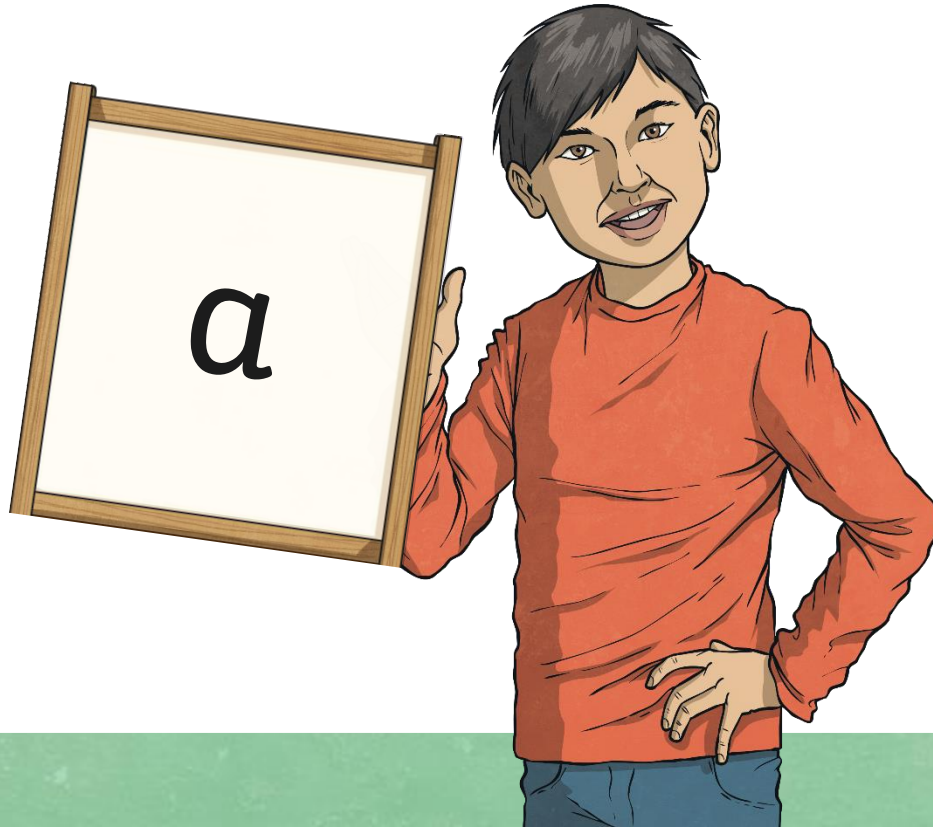
Task: Create a sentence about James Bond which uses dashes to add parenthesis.

The Double Dash



Now, let's play the Dashes for Parenthesis Quiz.

Show the answers to the questions on your whiteboard/piece of paper.
Write the correct letter on your board to show the correct answer – a, b
or c.



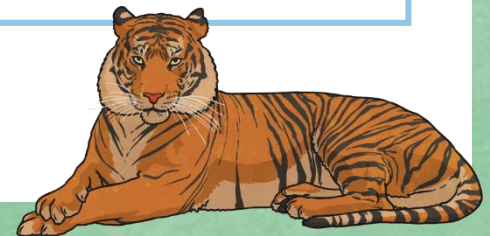
Which sentence correctly uses dashes for parenthesis?

Click to see if each sentence correctly uses dashes for parenthesis.

a) Sumatran tigers sadly now in danger of extinction – can swim very well because – their paws are webbed. ❌

b) Sumatran tigers sadly now – in danger of extinction – can swim very well because their paws are webbed. ❌

c) Sumatran tigers – sadly now in danger of extinction – can swim very well because their paws are webbed. ✅



Which sentence correctly uses dashes for parenthesis?

Click to see if each sentence correctly uses dashes for parenthesis.

a) Zebras – well known for their black and white stripes – can reach speeds of 40 miles per hour when running.



b) Zebras well known for their black and white stripes – can reach speeds of 40 miles per hour – when running.



c) Zebras well known – for their black and white stripes – can reach speeds of 40 miles per hour when running.



Which sentence correctly uses dashes for parenthesis?

Click to see if each sentence correctly uses dashes for parenthesis.

a) Meerkats those extraordinary digging creatures – live together – in large groups.



b) Meerkats – those extraordinary digging creatures – live together in large groups.



c) Meerkats – those extraordinary digging creatures live together – in large groups.



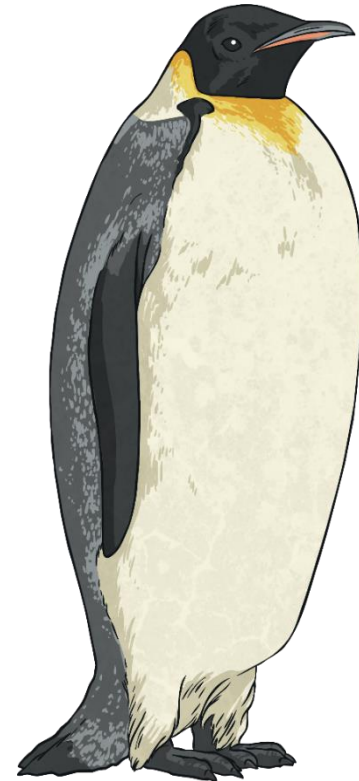
Which sentence correctly uses dashes for parenthesis?

Click to see if each sentence correctly uses dashes for parenthesis.

a) Penguins – despite being unable to breathe underwater – spend very little time on land. ✓

b) Penguins – despite being unable to – breathe underwater spend very little time on land. ✗

c) Penguins despite being unable to breathe – underwater – spend very little time on land. ✗



Which sentence correctly uses dashes for parenthesis?

Click to see if each sentence correctly uses dashes for parenthesis.

a) Many types – of monkey such as howler monkeys, spider monkeys, squirrel monkeys and marmosets – live in the Amazon rainforest.



b) Many types of monkey – such as howler monkeys, spider monkeys, squirrel monkeys and marmosets – live in the Amazon rainforest.



c) Many types of monkey such as howler monkeys – spider monkeys, squirrel monkeys and marmosets live – in the Amazon rainforest.



Which sentence correctly uses dashes for parenthesis?

Click to see if each sentence correctly uses dashes for parenthesis.

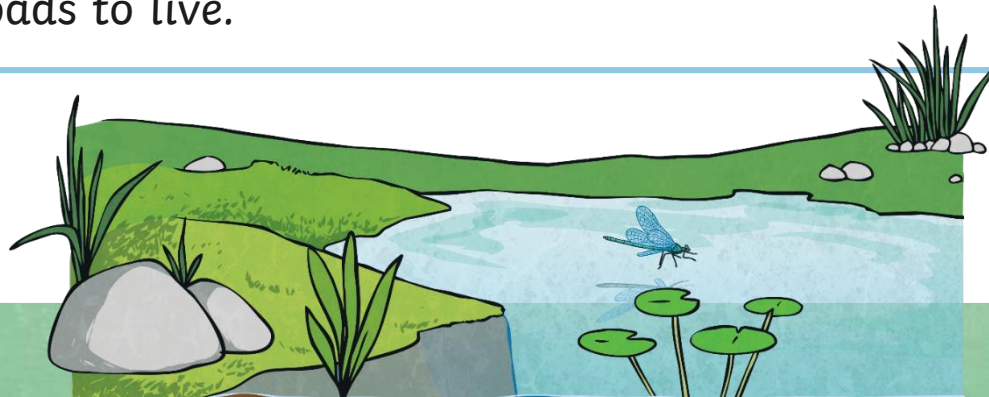
a) Damp environments compost heaps are perfect – are the best – places for toads to live.



b) Damp environments compost heaps – are perfect are the best places – for toads to live.



c) Damp environments – compost heaps are perfect – are the best places for toads to live.



Which sentence correctly uses dashes for parenthesis?

Click to see if each sentence correctly uses dashes for parenthesis.

a) My favourite animal – and there are many animals which I adore – would have to be a hedgehog! ✓

b) My favourite animal and there are many animals – which I adore – would have to be a hedgehog! ✗

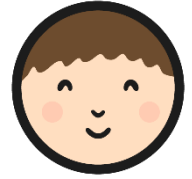
c) My favourite animal and – there are many animals which I adore would have to be – a hedgehog! ✗



Independent Focused Activity



The Dramatic Dash



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

Example

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

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

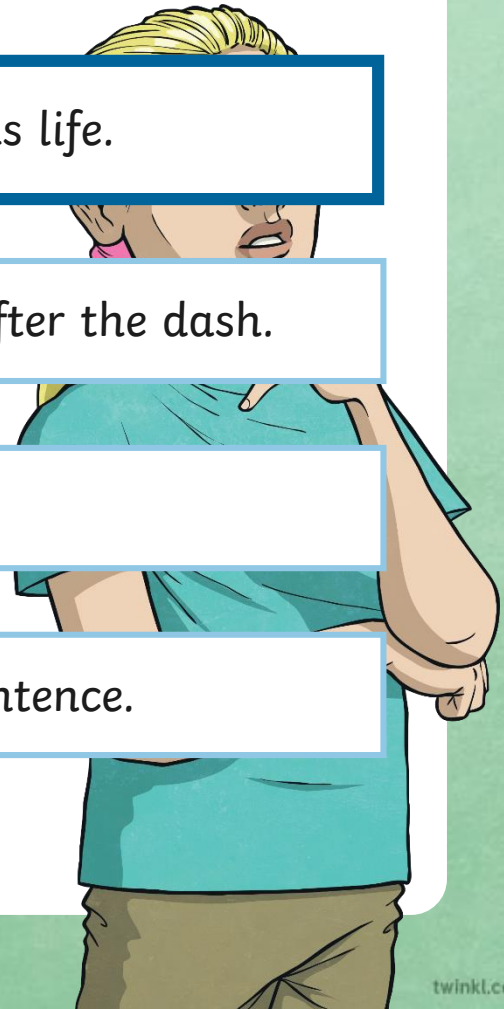
One dash is required if the parenthesis comes at the end of a sentence. A dash found by itself can be used

There should be a space before and after the dash.

Alternatively, the dash can be used to separate the end of the sentence from the rest of the sentence.

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

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



The Difference Between Dashes, Brackets and Paired Commas

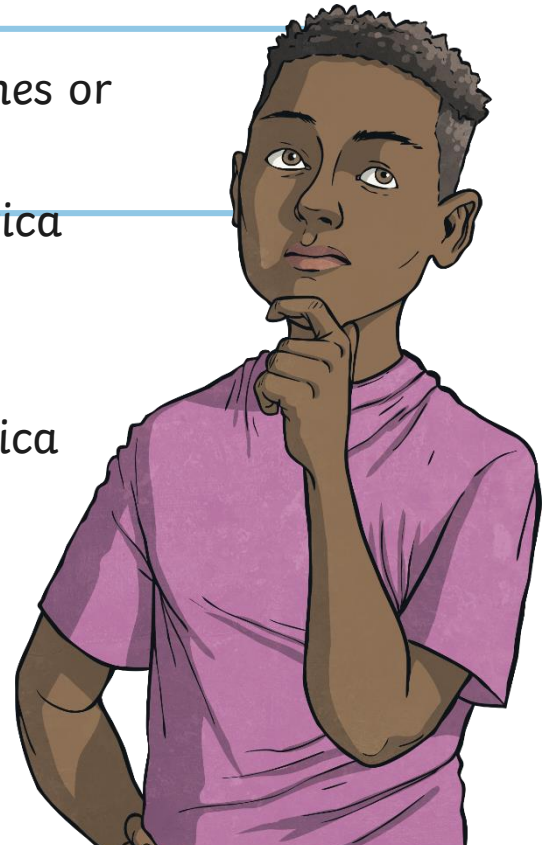


Think about these three sentences: How do you know whether to use brackets, dashes or paired commas?

Miss Moneypenny (who had travelled from America to England to see James) said the mission was a huge success.

Miss Moneypenny, who had travelled from America to England to see James, said the mission was a huge success.

Miss Moneypenny – who had travelled from America to England to see James – said the mission was a huge success.



What is the difference between the three?

