**Parentheses & Brackets**

**When and how should they be used?**

Explanation

Parentheses enclose additional information that is of secondary importance. In other words, it could be omitted without losing important information or changing the meaning of a sentence or paragraph.

Brackets are similar to parentheses in that they give additional information; however, they are used to enclose words in a direct quote that the writer has changed or added; they may also explain something in a quote.

Examples

*Translations*: *Semper fidelis* (from the Latin for “always faithful”) is the motto of the United States Marine Corps.

*Examples*: Doctors recommend engaging in moderate aerobic exercise (e.g., walking, jogging, or yoga) daily.

*Additional, but not necessary, information:* Pres. John Kennedy (1917-1963) was assassinated while in office.

*Add clarifying words in a quote*: The newspaper article stated that “at the time of that Democratic National Convention [in Chicago in 1968] there were many protest groups operating in the United States.

Exercises

*Decide where parentheses or brackets should be used in the following sentences:*

1. “Senorita” from the Spanish meaning “miss” or an unmarried woman is a popular song by Camila Cabello and Shawn Mendes.
2. The scientist who testified before the Senate committee stated, “A more rapid response testing for the Covid-19 virus could have prevented many deaths.”
3. Amphibians e.g., frogs, salamanders, and newts are cold-blooded animals.