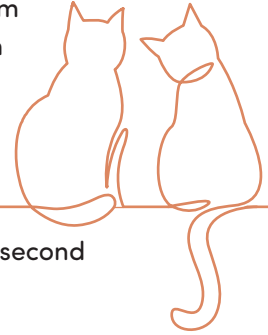


Using Parentheses for Parenthetical Elements

A parenthetical element is information that is not essential to the meaning of a sentence, such as an aside, example, or clarification. A parenthetical element is usually separated from the rest of the sentence by commas, dashes, or parentheses. Authors use parentheses when the nonessential information is less related to the main sentence, or when it represents an abrupt change in thought. Parentheses can be used to set off text that isn't grammatically related to the rest of the sentence.



- Would you consider adopting both of these kittens (a bonded pair) if we waive the second adoption fee?
- Studies have shown that having household pets (specifically dogs or cats) in a child's first year of life may help prevent allergies later in childhood.

Directions: Insert parentheses around the parenthetical element in each sentence.

- 1 All of Amir's pet rodents (a guinea pig, a chinchilla, and a pair of hamsters) are named after planets.
- 2 Juliet's family members (specifically her sister and her dad) were initially hesitant about her pet rats, but now they consider the rats part of the family.
- 3 Although I'm sure my aunt would never visit me again (she's terrified of snakes), I think a rosy boa would make a perfect roommate for me.
- 4 Many people don't realize that most pet birds have incredibly long lifespans (think decades, not years) and require significant amounts of attention to thrive.
- 5 Grayson provides a rotating menu of food (grasshoppers, earthworms, silkworms, fruits, and leafy vegetables) to ensure that his bearded dragon eats a healthy and balanced diet.
- 6 Goldfish can be many different colors (various combinations of white, yellow, orange, red, brown, and black) and use special cells called chromatophores to produce pigments in response to light.
- 7 Leo was perplexed (and perhaps a little embarrassed) when he realized that hedgehogs look nothing like actual hogs.
- 8 Do you think we'll have enough room in the backyard to get a pair of pygmy goats (since they need lots of space to jump and play) when we move to the new house?
- 9 Shyla's Netherland Dwarf rabbit has a spunky personality (that's putting it nicely) and tends to thump loudly to express its annoyance.
- 10 Riley took her dog, Zeus, for a walk (or rather, Zeus took her for a walk) around their neighborhood.