



Parentheses

Parentheses are used to add information that is essentially optional to a sentence. When inserted into a sentence, it acts as an intruder. If the intruder were to be taken out of the sentence, the meaning should not change.

Periods and **commas** should occur outside of the parentheses unless they're part of the parenthetical whole.

The U.S. Patent Office (inaugurated in 1836) has granted more patents for mouse traps than any other invention.

The only exception would be if the parentheses hold the position of a sentence. (For example, this would be an example of parentheses acting as a sentence.)

Practice

Use the chart below to practice your hyphen, dash, and parenthesis expertise.