

ENGLISH WRITING LESSON – 3.6.20

USE OF DASHES



The ground was boggy and as he ran beads of mud squished between his claws and spattered the pouch round his neck. He was leaving paw prints that could easily be tracked – practically marking his route for them – he cursed the damp ground, the foul weather, the men, the airship, everything. He was a precision machine. Not built for this kind of adventure. The indignity of it: to be chased through the woods like a common scavenger!

More prickly bushes – they were everywhere.

In this extract from Chapter 2, dashes are used in two ways:

1. As a pair, around a bit of extra information (similar to how you would use a pair of commas)
2. Like a single comma to mark a pause in the sentence.

But how and why do you use them like this?

If you can, click on this link to read more:

or this link to take you to an online clip about how to use them like the first example about <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zrdyvk7>

We are going to practise using them for parenthesis, like the first example.

Here's a couple more from Chapter 2:

DEVELOPING (1)

<p>1a. Tick two boxes to show where the dashes should go in the sentence below to indicate parenthesis.</p> <p>The film <u>out</u> yesterday <u>was</u> very <u>funny</u>.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p> VF </p>	<p>1b. Tick two boxes to show where the dashes should go in the sentence below to indicate parenthesis.</p> <p>Jasper <u>the boy</u> next door <u>was</u> lovely.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p> VF </p>
<p>2a. Which sentence has used dashes to indicate parenthesis correctly? Tick one box.</p> <p>The cat a ginger tabby – enjoyed curling – up in front of the fire. <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The puppy – only 10 weeks old – was going to a new home. <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p> VF </p>	<p>2b. Which sentence has used dashes to indicate parenthesis correctly? Tick one box.</p> <p>My coffee – bought only 5 minutes ago – is stone cold! <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Her drink which had been in the fridge was – very refreshing. <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p> VF </p>
<p>3a. Underline the parenthesis in the sentence below.</p> <p>He had wrapped a lot of presents – 15 in total!</p> <p> VF </p>	<p>3b. Underline the parenthesis in the sentence below.</p> <p>It had happened so many years ago – 20 years ago in fact.</p> <p> VF </p>

Write 5 sentences of your own that use a pair of dashes around 'extra' information.

If you are stuck, just use the example sentences in the questions above and just change the subject, object or verb

E.g. The dog – a white husky – had run away from home.

DEVELOPING (2)

1a. Use dashes to insert your own parenthesis to complete the sentence below.

Our house _____ is just down the road from yours.



^

1b. Use dashes to insert your own parenthesis to complete the sentence below.

My nan _____ is the funniest person I know.



^

2a. Rewrite the sentence below and reposition the parenthesis at the end of the sentence. Punctuate your sentence correctly.

I love to eat peppers – only the red ones though – with my salad.



^

2b. Rewrite the sentence below and reposition the parenthesis at the end of the sentence. Punctuate your sentence correctly.

Warm, crusty bread – fresh from the bakery – is my favourite thing to eat.



^

EXPECTED (1)

<p>5a. Tick two boxes to show where the dashes should go in the sentence below to indicate parenthesis.</p> <p>Mrs Smith <input type="checkbox"/> our new teacher <input type="checkbox"/> gave us extra <input type="checkbox"/> playtime for behaving <input type="checkbox"/> so well.</p> <p> VF </p>	<p>5b. Tick two boxes to show where the dashes should go in the sentence below to indicate parenthesis.</p> <p>I love peas <input type="checkbox"/> except <input type="checkbox"/> the mushy sort <input type="checkbox"/> but I don't like pea soup! <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p> VF </p>
<p>6a. Which sentence has used dashes to indicate parenthesis correctly? Tick one box.</p> <p>A large sum of money – over £1,000,000 – was won by a family of seven and they gave half to charity. <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>After winning the lottery – a man – who wanted to remain nameless, spent it all in one day. <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p> VF </p>	<p>6b. Which sentence has used dashes to indicate parenthesis correctly? Tick one box.</p> <p>Dad who was – rubbish at games – gave many wrong answers so he did not win the competition. <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>After thinking for a while – 10 whole minutes to be precise – Dad decided that his answer was no and was not willing to change his mind. <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p> VF </p>
<p>7a. Underline the parenthesis in the sentence below.</p> <p>Thankfully, his mother said that he could go to his best friend's party – weather permitting – as long as he was back by midnight.</p> <p> VF </p>	<p>7b. Underline the parenthesis in the sentence below.</p> <p>Finally, his luck had changed and the expensive mountain bike was reduced in the sale – only £150!</p> <p> VF </p>

Now come up with some of your own.

- Think of any sentence and try and add some humour, sarcasm or something that needs emphasizing.
- Use the examples above to give you a starting point!

EXPECTED (2)

<p>4a. Use dashes to insert your own parenthesis to complete the sentence below.</p> <p>The clock tower _____ was destroyed last night by a massive bolt of lightning and will need to be restored.</p> <p> A</p>	<p>4b. Use dashes to insert your own parenthesis to complete the sentence below.</p> <p>Our car _____ broke down on the way to school this morning so we were late.</p> <p> A</p>
<p>5a. Rewrite the sentence below and reposition the parenthesis at the end of the sentence. Punctuate your sentence correctly.</p> <p>Just now, I was quite surprised to see my dad holding – albeit reluctantly – a rather large spider and carrying it carefully outside.</p> <p> A</p>	<p>5b. Rewrite the sentence below and reposition the parenthesis at the end of the sentence. Punctuate your sentence correctly.</p> <p>If you are interested, there are several paragraphs – see page 36 – on the subject which can help you to understand the topic much better.</p> <p> A</p>

Decide where the dashes should go in these sentences and write out the whole sentences with the dashes included.

1. Her brother the one that is always in trouble was sent to Mrs. Grant's office yesterday.
2. It was his friend his only friend who offered him help.
3. A child astronaut if ever such a thing existed would not be able to control a spaceship.
4. Liam Digby if you can believe it managed to get himself on a manned mission to space.
5. The children shouting and screaming in a frenzy didn't know what to do.
6. Liam's parents feeling sick with worry didn't know what had happened to him or where he was.

GREATER DEPTH (1)

<p>9a. Tick two boxes to show where the dashes should go in the sentence below to indicate parenthesis.</p> <p>To stop the build-up of traffic, the police <input type="checkbox"/> man who had just arrived, took charge <input type="checkbox"/> and began to redirect the buses and lorries.</p> <p> VF</p>	<p>9b. Tick two boxes to show where the dashes should go in the sentence below to indicate parenthesis.</p> <p>To keep up-to-date with new ideas, the <input type="checkbox"/> pupil aged 10, read books avidly and often <input type="checkbox"/> recommended those he loved to his friends.</p> <p> VF</p>
<p>10a. Which sentence has used dashes to indicate parenthesis correctly? Tick one box.</p> <p>Last week, a break-in occurred at night – 1am to be precise – but the police still have no real clues. <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>During the evening – a break-in occurred – leaving police baffled as to who committed the crime. <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p> VF</p>	<p>10b. Which sentence has used dashes to indicate parenthesis correctly? Tick one box.</p> <p>Developed by scientists – the new-fangled device – will be put on display so that everyone can see it. <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The state-of-the-art device is going on display – as of next week – so everyone will have a chance to view it. <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p> VF</p>
<p>11a. Underline the parenthesis in the sentence below.</p> <p>Jumping ahead of the line, the child couldn't wait to ice-skate his way around the rink at the newly built leisure park – it had only opened today and everyone was really excited to see it.</p> <p> VF</p>	<p>11b. Underline the parenthesis in the sentence below.</p> <p>Deviously, the dragon decided to booby-trap his entire cave in case someone attempted to steal his precious gold – it had happened before!</p> <p> VF</p>

1. Read the sentence and decide if the dashes are in the correct place or not.

- Her brother the one - that is always in trouble - was sent to Mrs. Grant's office yesterday.
- It was - his friend his only friend - who offered him help.
- A child astronaut - if ever such a thing existed - would not be able to control a spaceship.
- Liam Digby if you can believe it- managed to get himself on a manned mission - to space.
- The children - shouting and screaming in a frenzy - didn't know what to do.
- Liam's parents - feeling sick with worry - didn't know what had happened to him or where he was.

2. For the ones that were incorrect, write them out again, using dashes correctly.

GREATER DEPTH (2)

<p>7a. Use dashes to insert your own parenthesis to complete the sentence below.</p> <p>Hiding in his cave, the plant-eating troll _____ felt rather sad when people screamed and ran away at the sight of his incredibly warty face.</p> <p> <small>A</small></p>	<p>7b. Use dashes to insert your own parenthesis to complete the sentence below.</p> <p>Yesterday, the world-famous astronaut _____ broke yet another record after completing a five year mission in the deepest, darkest depths of outer space.</p> <p> <small>A</small></p>
<p>8a. Rewrite the sentence below and reposition the parenthesis at the end of the sentence. Punctuate your sentence correctly.</p> <p>For those who really wish to know, the page in question – see appendix 2 – outlines the up-to-date rules for anyone wishing to teach school-based games like rugby and it gives hints and tips on how to deliver a fantastic lesson.</p> <p> <small>A</small></p>	<p>8b. Rewrite the sentence below and reposition the parenthesis at the end of the sentence. Punctuate your sentence correctly.</p> <p>For Christmas, the high-tech toy of the year is a walking, talking robot – batteries not included – which is capable of tidying your room and completing all of your homework tasks.</p> <p> <small>A</small></p>

Write 5 sentences of your own, thinking of an appropriate clause or phrase to put inside the pair of dashes.

Use the sentences above as a guide to help you.