

# Varied Fluency

## Step 4: Parenthesis for Clarity – Fiction

### National Curriculum Objectives:

English Year 5: Devices to build cohesion within a paragraph [for example, then, after that, this, firstly]

English Year 5: Link ideas across paragraphs using adverbials of time [for example, later], place [for example, nearby] and number [for example, secondly] or tense choices [for example, he had seen her before].

English Year 5: (5G5.9) [Using brackets, dashes or commas to indicate parenthesis](#)

Terminology for pupils:

- (5G5.9) [parenthesis](#)
- (5G5.9) [bracket](#)
- (5G5.9) [dash](#)
- (5G1.5) [cohesion](#)

### Differentiation:

**Developing** Questions to support learning about and using parenthesis for clarity. Texts feature commas and brackets for parenthesis.

**Expected** Questions to support learning about and using parenthesis for clarity. Texts feature commas, dashes and brackets for parenthesis.

**Greater Depth** Questions to support learning about and using parenthesis for clarity. Texts feature commas, dashes and brackets for parenthesis. Some vocabulary may require the use of dictionaries to check meaning.

[More resources](#) from our Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling scheme of work.

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## Parenthesis for Clarity – Fiction

### Dentistry

Although Katie's dentist (Dr Disaster) was very skilled, he lost most of his customers because he was not very good at making nervous patients feel calm. Katie, being such a nervous patient that she never even dared to cancel an appointment, was now one of her dentist's only remaining patients.

Now, as Katie sat down in the dentist's chair, the light almost blinding her overhead, she thought about ways she could get herself out of this situation. Before she had chance to consider any of her possible options, Dr Disaster swivelled his chair round and looked at Katie's mouth.

"Now, hold your head back Katie," he said, as sweat dripped down his head, "I'm just going to grab my giant needle and mega crushing pliers and we'll have that rotten tooth out in no time. Well, obviously it will take some time as it's quite a big tooth. Well, actually, it's a massive tooth, so this will probably take quite a lot of time really. This is going to really hurt, Katie. Anyway, just give me a minute to stretch out, I need to warm up a little for this one".

As Dr Disaster turned and began stretching out his neck, Katie squirmed in her chair. She looked around the room. The window (left open just wide enough that she might be able to sneak out) now began to look much more appealing.

1a. What extra information is added in parenthesis in the first paragraph?



VF

2a. Which paragraphs feature brackets to add extra information?



VF

3a. The writer has chosen to add some extra detail in the sentence below.

As Dr Disaster turned and began stretching out his neck, Katie  who was by  now utterly terrified  squirmed in her chair.

Tick where punctuation is needed to make the meaning clear.



VF

4a. Underline any extra information from the final paragraph which you could remove and the story would still make sense.



VF

## Parenthesis for Clarity – Fiction

### Sadness

Samran pressed his back, still red raw from his father's hand, against the cold radiator. There was no fear in Samran's mind that there'd be any heat coming from the radiator as it was always cold these days (the power in their house had been cut off for some time). The bills, as red as Samran's back, had piled high for months. Their words were never enough to persuade Samran's father that now was the time to pay (even though Samran had begged him to pay them). The gas and electric company had finally lost patience with Samran's father and stopped any power to their house.

Now, as Samran sat in the dark, cold and alone, he felt like crying. A few weeks ago, he would have cried, but he'd cried so much already that he'd forgotten what people even cried for anymore.

Instead, Samran continued to press his back against the radiator and thought. Nobody could touch Samran in his imagination. His imagination was all his. Samran turned his thoughts to his future, when he'd finally be free, and a smile began to spread across his face. Samran's smile was his secret too, and it was a secret his father would never know.

1b. What extra information is added in parenthesis in the first paragraph?



VF

2b. Which paragraphs feature brackets to add extra information?



VF

3b. The writer has chosen to add some extra detail in the sentence below.

His imagination filled to bursting with visions of exploration was  
                                                                              
all his.

Tick where punctuation is needed to make the meaning clear.



VF

4b. Underline any extra information from the final paragraph which you could remove and the story would still make sense.



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# Parenthesis for Clarity – Fiction

## Dentistry

Although Katie's dentist (Dr Disaster – an unfortunate name) was very experienced, he lost most of his customers (usually as a result of his inability to make nervous patients feel calm). Katie, being such a nervous patient that she never even dared call to cancel an appointment, was now one of her dentist's only remaining patients.

Now, as Katie sat down in the dentist's chair, the light almost blinding her overhead, she contemplated ways she could get herself out of this situation. Before she had chance to consider any of her possible options, Dr Disaster swivelled his chair round, turned his attention to her, and looked at Katie's mouth.

"Now, hold your head back Katie," he said, as sweat dripped from his brow, "I'm just going to grab my giant needle and mega crushing pliers and we'll have that rotten tooth out in no time. Well, I mean, obviously it will take some time. Actually, it is quite a big tooth. Well, actually, it's a massive tooth, so this will probably take quite a lot of time really. This is going to really hurt, Katie. Anyway, just give me a minute to stretch out, I need to warm up a little for this one".

As Dr Disaster turned and began stretching out his neck, Katie squirmed in her chair. She looked around the room. The window (left open just wide enough that she might be able to sneak out) now began to look like a surprisingly inviting option – even if it was three floors up.

5a. What extra information is added in parenthesis in the first paragraph?



VF

6a. Which paragraphs feature brackets to add extra information?



VF

7a. The writer has chosen to add some extra detail in the sentence below.

As Dr Disaster  turned and began stretching out his neck, Katie   
who was by  now utterly terrified  squirmed in her chair.

Tick where punctuation is needed to make the meaning clear.



VF

8a. Write out any extra information from the final paragraph which you could remove and the story would still make sense.



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# Parenthesis for Clarity – Fiction

## Sadness

Samran pressed his back, still red raw from his father's hand, against the soothingly cold radiator. There was no fear in Samran's mind that there'd be any heat coming from the radiator – the power in their small house had long since being cut off – it was always cold these days. The bills, as red as Samran's back, had piled high for months. Their threatening words were never enough to persuade Samran's father that now was the time to pay (even though Samran had pleaded with him to pay them). The gas and electric company had finally lost patience with Samran's father and pulled the plug on any power to their house.

Now, as Samran sat in the dark, cold and alone, he felt like crying. A few weeks ago, he probably would have cried, but he'd cried so much already that he'd forgotten what people even cried for anymore.

Instead, Samran continued to press his back against the radiator and thought. Nobody could touch Samran in his imagination. His imagination was all his. Samran turned his thoughts to his future – when he'd finally be free – and a smile began to spread across his face. Samran's smile was his secret too (and it was a secret his father would never know).

5b. What extra information is added in parenthesis in the first paragraph?



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6b. Which paragraphs feature dashes to add extra information?



VF

7b. The writer has chosen to add some extra detail in the sentence below.

His imagination filled to bursting with visions of exploration was  
                                                                    
all his.

Tick where punctuation is needed to make the meaning clear.



VF

8b. Write out any extra information from the final paragraph which you could remove and the story would still make sense.



VF

# Parenthesis for Clarity – Fiction

## Dentistry

Although Katie's dentist (Dr Disaster – an unfortunate nomenclature) was gifted, he lost most of his clientele (usually as a result of his inability to soothe his anxious patients). Katie, being so nervous a patient that she never even dared call to cancel an appointment, was now one of her dentist's only remaining patients.

Now, as Katie sat down in the dentist's chair, the fulgurating light almost blinding her overhead, she contemplated ways she could get herself out of this situation. Before she had chance to consider any of her possible options, Dr Disaster swivelled his chair round, turned his attention to her, and looked at Katie's mouth.

"Now, hold your head back Katie," he said, as perspiration dripped from his brow, "I'm just going to grab my monstrous needle and mega crushing pliers and we'll have that rotten tooth out in no time. Well, I mean, obviously it will take some time. Actually, it is quite a big tooth. Well, actually, it's a massive tooth, so this will probably take rather a lot of time really. This is going to really sting, Katie. Anyway, just give me a minute to stretch out, I need to warm up a little for this one".

As Dr Disaster turned and began stretching out his neck, Katie writhed in her chair. She looked around the room (which wasn't exactly filled with possibilities). The window – left open just wide enough that she might be able to sneak out – now began to look like a surprisingly inviting option – even if it was three floors up.

9a. What extra information is added in parenthesis in the first paragraph?



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10a. Which paragraphs feature dashes to add extra information?



VF

11a. The writer has chosen to add some extra detail in the sentence below.

As Dr Disaster turned and began stretching out his neck, Katie  
by now utterly terrified squirmed in her chair this was too much.

Tick where punctuation is needed to make the meaning clear.



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12a. Write out any extra information from the final paragraph which you could remove and the story would still make sense.



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## Parenthesis for Clarity – Fiction

### Sadness

Samran pressed his back, still flushed with crimson from his father's hand, against the soothingly cold radiator. There was no fear in Samran's mind that there'd be any heat emanating from the radiator – the power in their ramshackle house had long since being cut off – it was always cold these days. The bills, as red as Samran's back, had piled high for months, their threatening typeset never being enough to persuade Samran's father that now was the time to pay (even though Samran had pleaded with him to settle them). The gas and electric company had finally lost patience with Samran's father and pulled the plug on any power to their house.

Now, Samran – sat in the dark, cold and alone – felt like crying. A few weeks ago, he probably would have cried, but he'd cried so much already that he'd forgotten what people even cried for anymore.

Instead, Samran continued to press his back, now blistering painfully, against the radiator and thought. Nobody could touch Samran in his imagination. His imagination was all his. Samran turned his thoughts to his future, when he'd finally be free, and a smile began to spread across his face. Samran's smile was his secret too (and it was a secret his father would never know).

9b. What extra information is added in parenthesis in the first paragraph?



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10b. Which paragraphs feature dashes to add extra information?



VF

11b. The writer has chosen to add some extra detail in the sentence below.

His imagination filled to bursting with visions of world exploration  
and excitement was all his even if it wasn't real.



Tick where punctuation is needed to make the meaning clear.



VF

12b. Write out any extra information from the final paragraph which you could remove and the story would still make sense.



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Varied Fluency  
Parenthesis for Clarity – Fiction

Developing

- 1a. The name of the dentist; how nervous Katie was
- 2a. The first and fourth paragraphs
- 3a. First and third boxes ticked
- 4a. “left open just wide enough that she might be able to sneak out”

Expected

- 5a. Katie’s dentist’s unfortunate name; what the dentist wasn’t very good at; how nervous Katie was
- 6a. The first and fourth paragraphs
- 7a. The second and fourth boxes ticked
- 8a. “left open just wide enough that she might be able to sneak out”; “even if it was three floors up”

Greater Depth

- 9a. Katie’s dentist’s unfortunate name; what the dentist wasn’t very good at; how nervous Katie was
- 10a. The first and fourth paragraphs
- 11a. Second, third and fourth boxes ticked
- 12a. “which wasn’t exactly filled with possibilities”; “left open just wide enough that she might be able to sneak out”; “even if it was three floors up”

Varied Fluency  
Parenthesis for Clarity – Fiction

Developing

- 1b. The colour of Samran’s back and how that happened, the fact the power in their house had been cut off, the colour of the bills, the fact Samran had begged his father to pay the bills
- 2b. The first paragraph
- 3b. First and third boxes ticked
- 4b. “when he’d finally be free”

Expected

- 5b. The colour of Samran’s back and how that happened, the fact the power in their house had been cut off, the colour of the bills, the fact Samran had pleaded with his father to pay the bills
- 6b. The first and third paragraphs
- 7b. The first and fourth boxes ticked
- 8b. “when he’d finally be free”; “and it was a secret his father would never know”

Greater Depth

- 9b. The colour of Samran’s back and how that happened, the fact the power in their house had been cut off, the colour of the bills, the fact Samran had pleaded with his father to pay the bills
- 10b. The first and second paragraphs
- 11b. The first, fourth and fifth boxes ticked
- 12b. “now blistering painfully”; “when he’d finally be free”; “and it was a secret his father would never know”