Parentheses

1. Focus

Explain Parentheses

Say: Parentheses are marks we can use in our writing when we want to add additional information or an additional comment to what we are writing. The first parenthesis bracket goes at the beginning of the additional information and the final parenthesis goes at the end of the information.

Display the following chart on chart paper or use the interactive whiteboard resources.

| Everyone (especially Josh) liked the movie. |
| What is your favorite kind of milk? (Choose chocolate or white!) |
| One cup of peas (fresh or frozen) |

Example Text

Say: The phrase especially Josh is an extra comment, so we use parentheses to separate it from the rest of the sentence. In the second sentence, two kinds of milk are given, which is additional information to the question. This sentence is separated from the question with parentheses. In the third example, the words fresh or frozen tell extra information about the peas, so the author has written them in parentheses.

Model Using Parentheses

Display these sentences from pages 6 and 10 of the mentor text on chart paper or use the interactive whiteboard resources. Read the sentences aloud to students.

| Unwrap the chocolate bar and break it up into the bowl. (No tasting!) |
| Small jar of salsa (mild, medium, or hot) |

Modeling Text

Say: The first sentence is a step from a procedure that tells me how to make chocolate-dipped strawberries. The words No tasting are in parentheses because this is extra information. The words are not part of the step about what to do with the chocolate bar. The second sentence is from a procedure that tells me how to make burritos. The words mild, medium, or hot tell extra information about types of salsa, so the author has written them in parentheses.
2. Rehearse

Practice Using Parentheses

Display the practice text (without parentheses) on chart paper or use the interactive whiteboard resources.

Invite students to form pairs to read the sentences and decide where they would put parentheses.

If your class includes English learners or other students who need support, use “Strategies to Support ELs.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Practice Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Open the chocolate chips and pour them into a bowl. (No spilling!)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Use scissors to cut out the picture of the dog. (on the right side of paper)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Share Sentences with Parentheses

Invite students to share which sentences or parts of the sentences belonged in parentheses. Discuss their responses by asking the following questions:

- In practice sentence number one, what did you put in parentheses? Why did you put that part in parentheses?
- In practice sentence number two, what did you put in parentheses? Why did you put that part in parentheses?

3. Independent Writing and Conferring

**Say:** We learned that writers sometimes use parentheses to set off extra comments or information. When we are writing a procedure, we will think about places where we might want to use parentheses to set apart information that is extra information about a step in the process.

If you would like to give students additional practice recognizing and using parentheses, have them complete BLM 10.

4. Share

Bring students together. Invite volunteers to share their answers to BLM 10. Provide feedback as necessary.

**Strategies to Support ELs**

**Beginning**

Have picture cards of a tiger, a monkey, and an elephant available as well as two large pieces of yarn or string that can be used to make parentheses. Point to the pictures. **Say:** Choose your favorite zoo animal. Explain that the tiger, monkey, and elephant are choices for a favorite zoo animal. Model how to put the pictures of the tiger, monkey, and elephant in parentheses.) **Say:** The names of the animals are extra information about which animals from which to choose. We use parentheses around their names.

**Intermediate and Advanced**

Pair students with fluent English speakers to complete BLM 10.

**All Levels**

If you have ELs whose first language is Spanish, share the following English/Spanish cognate: parenthesis/paréntesis.