

Dashes

Dashes are used to add extra information or comments to sentences.



Paul was scared — more scared than he had ever been before.



She waited for a letter to arrive — but nothing came.



The dog was barking loudly — until its owner arrived.

Dashes

Dashes can also be used in pairs to mark extra information. This is called parenthesis. Dashes used in this way are known as parentheses.



My cousin – who is only three years old – can count to ten.

Did you know...?
Brackets and commas can also be used as parentheses.



I enjoy eating ice cream – especially chocolate flavoured – in the summer.



Jacob – who had only joined the class yesterday – was the first to volunteer.

The phrase between the dashes can be removed, and the sentence would still make sense.

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