

Parentheses

Parentheses are used to emphasize the information that they enclose. Parentheses are used to set off nonessential elements from its sentence. They are also used to enclose numbers or letters that precede the members of a list and are used to enclose citation materials.

- Lay people (and some scholars) define language as the way one speaks.
- The doctor warned John to avoid the following: (1) smoking, (2) drinking, (3) pork, and (4) heavy pastries.
- Joseph Williams (2007) claims, “Your readers want you to write clearly, but not in Dick-and-Jane sentences (p. 49).

Note:

Parentheses can be distracting; therefore, you should use them sparingly.