



Parentheses

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

Examples:

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.