Commas, brackets, dashes: answers and notes

What your child practised: putting a relative clause in parenthesis with a pair of commas, brackets or dashes (Year 5 grammar).

Page 1 · Warm up

1. the two **commas** 2. the two **brackets**
3. the two **dashes**

Page 2 · Try it together

Answers will vary. Check for two matching marks, right round the extra fact.

Page 2 · A. Add the commas

A comma after each of these words:
1. **Leo** and **six** 2. **Moon** and **Earth**
3. **Hill** and **maths** 4. **Farm** and **school**

Page 3 · B. Tick or fix

1. Fix: add a comma after **friend**. 2. **Tick**
3. Fix: Leo, who plays the drums, is…
4. Fix: (who is a vet). 5. **Tick**

Page 3 · C. Two more ways

Sam **(**who was very hungry**)** ate three sandwiches.
Sam **–** who was very hungry **–** ate three sandwiches.

Page 3 · D. Your own

Answers will vary, e.g. The giraffe, which was very tall, ate…

Challenge: No. The extra information needs a mark at **both** ends, however short the sentence: **Mum, who loves running, ran a marathon.** With one comma, the reader can't tell where the extra part stops.

Watch out for

- **Only one mark.** Ask: "Where does the extra part start, and where does it stop?" Each end needs a mark.
- **Marks in the wrong place** (Leo who, plays…). The first mark goes just **before** who or which.

Going further (no paper)

- **Air marks:** say a sentence with extra information and your child draws the pair of marks in the air, in the right places.
- **Whisper the brackets:** read a sentence aloud and say the part in parenthesis quietly.
- **In the game:** Chapter 6, Grammar words, puts names to everything: relative pronoun, cohesion, ambiguity and modal verb.