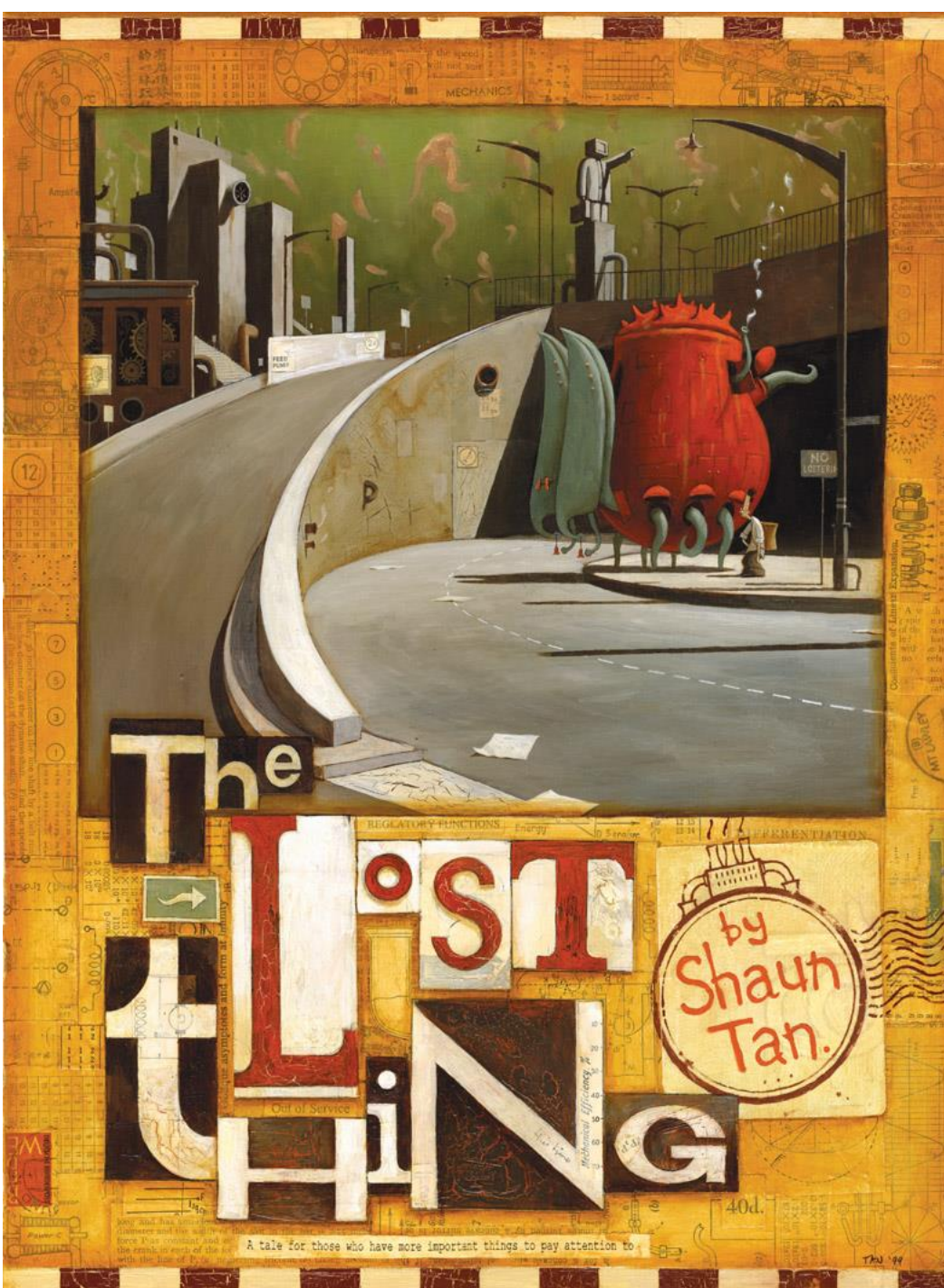




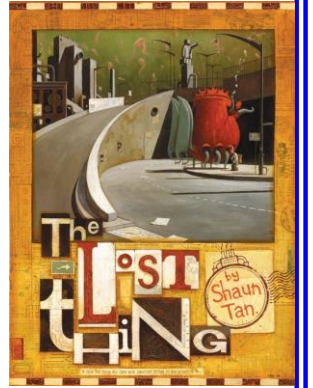
Parenthesis

The Lost Thing



Parenthesis

- Parenthesis is **extra information** added into a complete sentence.
- The original sentence makes sense without it.
- The extra information can be separated using **commas**, **brackets** or **dashes**.



The Lost Thing was found on the beach.

complete sentence

The Lost Thing, a strange red metal creature, was found on the beach.

extra added information

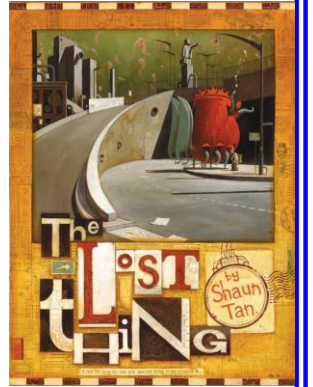


Commas are most commonly used to separate a parenthesis. They don't draw much attention from the reader.



Parenthesis

There are 3 ways to separate the extra information, **commas**, **brackets** and **dashes**.



The choice of which punctuation to use is yours, they all do the same job.

*There is disagreement about when the different punctuation should be used but, in general, you can think of **commas**, **brackets**, and **dashes** as being on a line from quite low key to quite high visibility! Commas don't break up the sentence much, brackets break it up a bit, and dashes really do disrupt the sentence.*

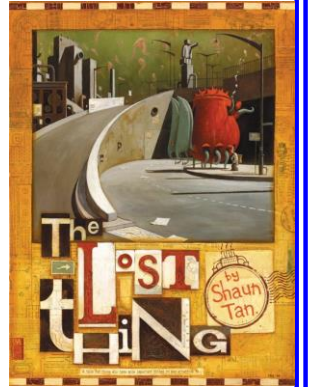
commas are the quiet conversational voice of a friend walking by your desk

brackets are the behind your hand whisper of an aside

dashes are the shout of a pirate dashing into a fight

Parenthesis

Commas are used very often – they do not draw much attention to the extra information and hardly break up the sentence at all.



The Lost Thing sat surrounded by people.

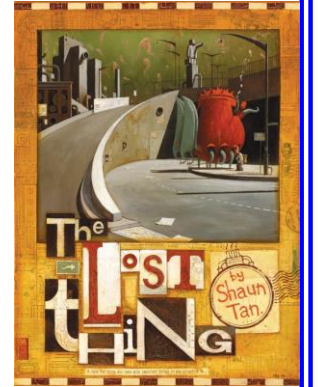
complete sentence

The Lost Thing sat, looking out of place, surrounded by people.

extra added information



Parenthesis



Commas are used very often – they do not draw much attention to the extra information and hardly break up the sentence at all.

complete sentence

The Lost Thing turned out to be quite friendly.

Choose some extra information
about The Lost Thing.

for all its strange appearance

Add it using **commas**.

even though it scared me

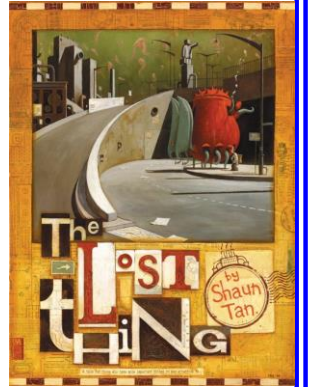
when I spoke to it

Possible answer

*The Lost Thing, **when I spoke to it**, turned out to be quite friendly.*

Parenthesis

Brackets are used to draw more attention to the additional information. The reader knows that they are being told something extra.



The Lost Thing sat on the roof with us.

complete sentence



The Lost Thing (making itself at home) sat on the roof with us.

extra added information

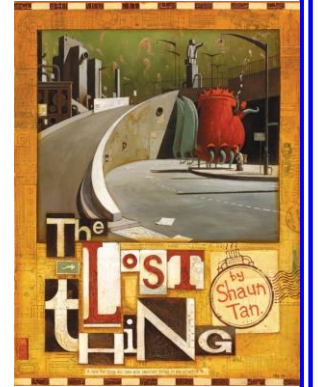


The writer might want to draw attention to important or funny extra information.

The Lost Thing (looking like a giant tea-pot) sat on the roof with us.

Parenthesis

Brackets are used to draw more attention to the additional information. The reader knows that they are being told something extra.



The Lost Thing stayed in the shed.

now full of food

after having eaten

who still seemed sad

Possible answer

Choose some extra information about The Lost Thing.

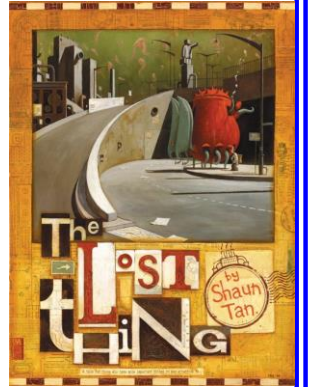
Add it using **brackets**.



The Lost Thing (now full of food) stayed in the shed.

Parenthesis

Dashes are commonly used in informal writing. They break up the sentence more than commas or brackets, and therefore draw attention to the extra information.



People walked past The Lost Thing without a second glance .

complete
sentence

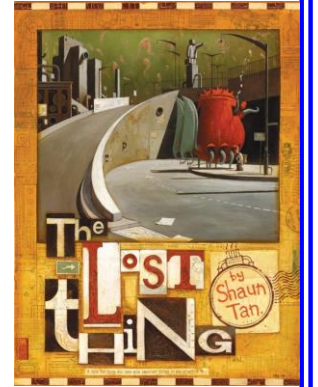
People walked past The Lost Thing—as it clanked and creaked— without a second glance.

extra added information



Parenthesis

Dashes are commonly used in informal writing. They break up the sentence more than commas or brackets, and therefore draw attention to the extra information.



The Lost Thing looked sad as we waited.

getting on my nerves a bit

whatever on earth it was

my new best friend

Choose some extra information
about The Lost Thing.

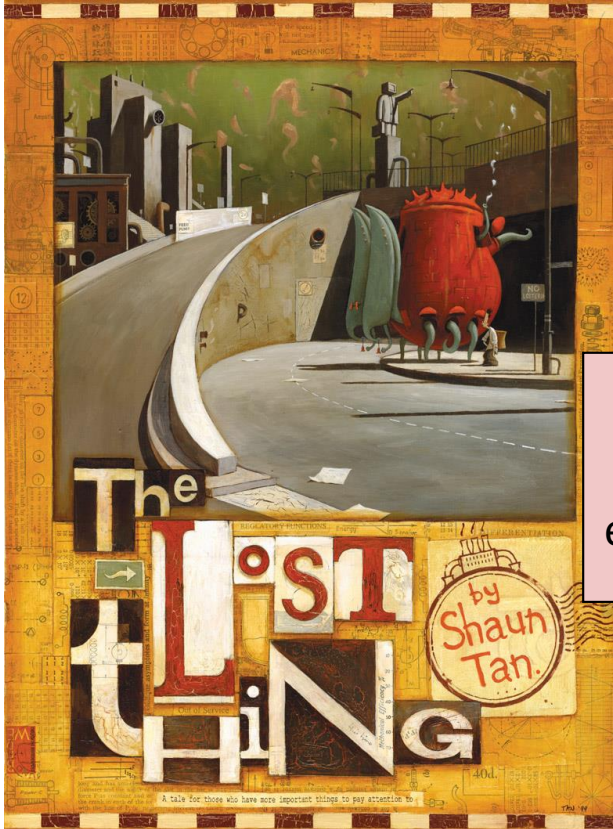
Add it using **dashes**.



Possible answer

The Lost Thing —my new best friend— looked sad as we waited.

Parenthesis



To add parenthesis (extra information) to a sentence, we can use **commas, brackets or dashes**. Each indicates that we are telling the reader something extra!

Drawing lots of attention to the extra information

Not drawing much attention to the extra information

Drawing more attention to it

The Lost Thing *is often on my mind.*
The Lost Thing *, though I've not seen it since,* is often on my mind.

The Lost Thing *(my forever friend)* is often on my mind.

The Lost Thing *—that weird red teapot—*is often on my mind.



When using parenthesis, it's your choice how much attention you want to draw to the extra information.



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