

# QUALIFYING REMARKS THAT INJECT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IN A NEAT, CONCISE MANNER (PARENTHESIS)

E60 Engr 310 11: Technical Writing

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November 28th, 2016

# PARENTHESIS ≠ PARENTHESES

Let's clear this up right away

# FORMAL DEFINITIONS OF PARENTHESIS

## Literary Device

- “a remark that is added to a sentence, often to provide an explanation or extra information, that is separated from the main part of the sentence by commas, brackets, or dashes” ([Cambridge Dictionary](#))

## Punctuation

- “**one** [emphasis added] of a pair of marks ( ) that are used around a word, phrase, sentence, number, etc.” ([Merriam-Webster](#))
- **Always used in pairs!**
  - Except for emoticons  
:)



# Loopholes

- Parenthesis (as a device) needn't use parentheses as its marks – em dashes could be used – and, even with a couple of commas, it would still count [technically, though maybe not in practice, brackets also work]
- Something said *in parenthesis* is said *in passing*

# History (some etymology)

- 1560-70; < Late Latin < Greek paréntesis a putting in beside. See par-, en-2, thesis ([Dictionary.com](http://Dictionary.com))
  - par-: beside
  - en-: in
  - THE: to put
  - -sis: action, process, state, condition
- Difficult to get precise history on the device form, but we do know that John Walker wrote *A Rhetorical Grammar* in 1823 and discussed parenthesis therein.

# EXAMPLES (DEMONSTRATIONS)

- ▶ Woody (the sheriff) felt threatened by Buzz (the space ranger).
- ▶ Andy, an imaginative child, loved his toys.
- ▶ Mr. Potato Head (and Mrs. Potato Head) could also be found in the toy box.
- ▶ *Toy Story* – a Pixar property – spawned two sequels (and there's a fourth in the works)!
- ▶ Woody: “[through his voice box] Reach for the sky!”



# YOUR TURN

## (CAN YOU FIGURE IT OUT?)

- [
  - **Incorrect: this is a bracket, not a parenthesis**
- Bullseye was Woody's loyal steed.
  - **Correct!**
- Bullseye Woody's loyal steed was part of the gang.
  - Bullseye (Woody's loyal steed) was part of the gang.
  - Bullseye – Woody's loyal steed – was part of the gang.
  - Bullseye, Woody's loyal steed, was part of the gang.
- Bullseye (Woody's loyal steed – was part of the gang.
  - **Incorrect: while both marks are valid, they do not match**
- Buzz: “[To infinity and beyond!]”
  - **Incorrect: [ ] add necessary context alterations to quotes**





# REFERENCES



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THE END (OR IS IT?)



(IT IS)