

brackets

Brackets () are used in pairs, before and after an extra piece of information in a sentence. You put them round information that does not fit into the flow of a sentence, but which you still want to include, for example:

The policemen turned in the wrong direction (left instead of right).

Sometimes, information in brackets may make a sentence clearer.

Tomorrow (April 30), the new school term begins.

Sometimes, it may help explain something.

Bivalves are molluscs with two (bi) shells (or valves).

The information inside brackets is usually not essential, or not as important as the other information. It could be left out of a sentence, and the meaning of the sentence would not change.