

BRACKETS AND HYPHENS

Brackets enclose or surround information to show that it is separate from everything around it. ()

E.g. The bus (that was yellow) was running five minutes late.

Hyphens are used to join two words to make a compound adjective.

E.g. The cat is well house-trained.

Task One.

Remove the brackets from these sentences. To make this easier you should make two sentences. Look at this example.

The kittens (dashing around the garden as usual) were fighting when Carl came home.

The kittens were fighting when Carl came home. They were dashing round the garden as usual.

- a. The trainers (red and blue Nike Air) were very expensive.
- b. The cars (Cadillacs with mirror windows) looked as if they were carrying famous people.
- c. The shoes (made of patent leather) were all scuffed and dirty.
- d. Sydney Opera House (built at the entrance to Sydney harbour) is famous for its summer opera season.
- e. The children (who were very excited) couldn't wait to meet the Queen.
- f. The fire engine (which had sirens blaring and lights flashing) moved swiftly between the rush hour traffic.

Task Two.

Copy these sentences into your books and underline the compound adjectives.

- a. Cheryl didn't know what to say. For once, she was tongue-tied.
- b. The group of animal-lovers congregated around the building.

- c. Tony made sure he was clean-shaven for his big night out.
- d. Paul described the thief as a money-grabbing, light-fingered rat!
- e. The robot has large, monster-like cylinders where his eyes should be.
- f. The Crawley twins were football-mad.

Task Three.

Copy these sentences into your books. You need to put in the missing brackets, so read them carefully first.

- a. The diagram shown on the previous page is of a Boeing 747.
- b. Police Officers sometimes called ‘bobbies’ or ‘peelers’ get their nicknames from Sir Robert Peel.
- c. The Eiffel Tower found in Paris, France is made entirely of trifle.
- d. The Steelers based in Pittsburgh, America are a famous football team.
- e. The teacher who was new to the school took the class to the seaside.

Task Four.

Find TEN compound adjectives in a reading book. List them in your books and write down briefly what they mean.