

Using Brackets, Dashes or Commas for Parenthesis

The following extracts are from the KS2 story 'Under the Lights'.

Choose the sentence which uses parenthesis correctly. Tick one from each set.

1.

Janelle on the other hand, practically, glided towards the hall.	
Janelle on the other hand, practically glided, towards the hall.	
Janelle, on the other hand, practically glided towards the hall.	
Janelle, on the other hand practically glided, towards the hall.	

2.

"She hasn't – spoken to me since – well, you know since the play."	
"She hasn't spoken to me since well, you know – since – the play."	
"She hasn't spoken – to me since – well, you know since the play."	
"She hasn't spoken to me since – well, you know – since the play."	

3.

Hassan took his lucky eraser from his pocket, kissed it (I'm not joking) and put it on the table in front of him.	
Hassan took his (lucky eraser) from his pocket, kissed it I'm not joking and put it on the table in front of him.	
Hassan took his lucky eraser from his pocket, kissed it I'm not joking and (put it on the table) in front of him.	
Hassan took his lucky (eraser from his pocket), kissed it I'm not joking and put it on the table in front of him.	

Rewrite the following sentences, inserting a pair of commas for parenthesis.

4. On Saturday one day before the party I interrupted Mum while she was on her laptop.

5. "Sometimes when we're anxious about things it can affect how we behave."

6. Here was Noah the cleverest person I knew telling me that he was finding things hard, too.

Rewrite the following sentences, inserting parenthesis in the correct place.

7. We were at the shops pushing our way between bustling Saturday shoppers when two hands grabbed my elbows.

8. Afterwards on the playground Janelle hugged me.

9. Mum listened the whole time completely silent just nodding every so often.

10. They're all things that people said to me last year all except one and they all have something in common.

Using Brackets, Dashes or Commas for Parenthesis **Answers**

1. Janelle on the other hand, practically, glided towards the hall.

Janelle on the other hand, practically glided, towards the hall.

Janelle, on the other hand, practically glided towards the hall.

Janelle, on the other hand practically glided, towards the hall.

2. “She hasn’t – spoken to me since – well, you know since the play.”

“She hasn’t spoken to me since well, you know – since – the play.”

“She hasn’t spoken – to me since – well, you know since the play.”

“She hasn’t spoken to me since – well, you know – since the play.”

3. **Hassan took his lucky eraser from his pocket, kissed it (I’m not joking) and put it on the table in front of him.**

Hassan took his (lucky eraser) from his pocket, kissed it I’m not joking and put it on the table in front of him.

Hassan took his lucky eraser from his pocket, kissed it I’m not joking and (put it on the table) in front of him.

Hassan took his lucky (eraser from his pocket), kissed it I’m not joking and put it on the table in front of him.

4. On Saturday, one day before the party, I interrupted Mum while she was on her laptop.
5. “Sometimes, when we’re anxious about things, it can affect how we behave.”
6. Here was Noah, the cleverest person I knew, telling me that he was finding things hard, too.
7. We were at the shops, pushing our way between bustling Saturday shoppers, when two hands grabbed my elbows.

Accept brackets, commas or dashes.

8. Afterwards, on the playground, Janelle hugged me.

Accept brackets, commas or dashes.

9. Mum listened the whole time, completely silent, just nodding every so often.

Accept brackets, commas or dashes.

10. They’re all things that people said to me last year – all except one – and they all have something in common.

Accept brackets, commas or dashes.