

Other Uses for Brackets

I can use brackets to show parenthesis.

Remember round brackets can surround different information such as:

1. **An extra detail** – The passenger train (which was late) pulled up at the station.
2. **To offer the reader an aside** – I'm heading out (movie night!), but I'll call you in the morning.
3. **An authorial intrusion** – Train spotting (what a boring past time!) was her favourite hobby.
4. **A list which interrupts a sentence** – The three busiest train stations in Great Britain (Waterloo, Victoria, Liverpool Street) are all based in London.
5. **A date, or the birth and death of a person** – William Tate (February 1798 – 20 April 1873) was the architect who designed Waterloo Bridge Station.
6. **A Latin name used after a common name** – The film 'My Fair Lady' opens with Eliza Doolittle selling violets (violets) outside Covent Garden.

Task - Insert a number, based on the above information, next to each sentence to show the reason the bracket has been used.

Sentence	Number
The 30th anniversary of the eruption of Mount St. Helens (May 18th, 1980) brought back vivid memories of ash and darkness.	
He was heading out (to the cinema) but he would return the call in the morning.	
He was very surprised (and believe me it was pretty hard to surprise him!) at the unexpected party.	
The daffodil (narcissus) is a spring plant with yellow petals.	
Winston Churchill (1874-1965) was an important figure during the second world war.	
His coat was the colours of the rainbow (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet).	

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Answers

Sentence	Number
The 30th anniversary of the eruption of Mount St. Helens (May 18th, 1980) brought back vivid memories of ash and darkness.	5
He was heading out (to the cinema) but he would return the call in the morning.	1
He was very surprised (and believe me it was pretty hard to surprise him!) at the unexpected party.	3
The daffodil (narcissus) is a spring plant with yellow petals.	6
Winston Churchill (1874-1965) was an important figure during the second world war.	5
His coat was the colours of the rainbow (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet).	4