**Parentheses**

1. Set off unimportant material that interrupts the sentence thought or structure
2. Does not change the meaning of the sentence.

**Dashes**

1. Set off a break in thought or sentence strucutre.
2. Add emphasis

\*\*Both should be use sparingly.

Mrs. Chen is preparing to run a 10K race (6.2 miles).

Because of media, our fear of sharks is vastly out of proportion. (Dying from a dog attack is much more likely.)

Although newspaper editors generally prize concise letters (the shorter the better), they will occasionally print long letters that are very eloquent.

Kiere took a few steps back, came running full speed, kicked a mighty kick—and missed the ball.

Christina couldn’t believe the stranger at the door was really who he claimed—a brother she hadn’t seen in twenty years.

Everything that went wrong—from the mean kids to our car accident—was blamed on the move.