



BRACKETS

24a

Use square brackets to signal corrections or errors

1. Signal editorial correction

Square brackets are usually used to signal that an editorial correction or clarification has been made within a quotation.

- ➔ “The inherent relationship between [the Chinese and Western] systems of astrology is due to exploration and storytelling” (Williams 234).

2. Signal editorial error

Square brackets that are placed around the word *sic* (“as such” in Latin) signal that an editorial error was made by the original writer or speaker.

- ➔ “The inherent relationship between [*sic*] the three systems of astrology is due to exploration and storytelling” (Williams 234).

Helpful hint

You can avoid using square brackets by being selective in choosing what you use as quoted material. If you can summarize or paraphrase, instead of quoting, a section that lacks clarity or has a typographical error, do so.

24b

Use angle brackets to signal Web addresses

Angle brackets (< >) are used to signal Web addresses and separate them unmistakably from the rest of the sentence.

Angle brackets also allow for the end punctuation to fall outside the brackets, thus not creating any confusion about whether the end punctuation is part of the Web address.

- ➔ To learn more about Chinese astrology, visit <<http://chinesezodiac.com>>.

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