

Using an Ellipsis

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Standard

ELACC8L2: Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

- a. Use punctuation (comma, ellipsis, dash) to indicate a pause or break.
- b. Use an ellipsis to indicate an omission.
- c. Spell correctly.

Ellipsis

- An Ellipsis is a type of punctuation that is used to indicate omission or pauses in writing. It is made up of 3 dots

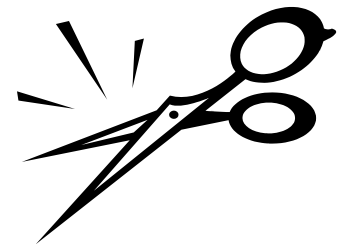
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Ex. Nanette kept pondering her decision . . . and finally decided she had made a mistake.



Usage 1

- An Ellipsis can be used when quoting a text to omit (leave out) part of the text.
- This happens when the writer decides he/she only needs a portion of a quotation to support his/her claim. He/she usually wants to leave out part of the quotation that is in the middle.



Example of Text Omitted from the Middle

Original quote: "Since graduating from college in Washington, Eva had been taking medicine to relieve the pain of her rheumatoid arthritis" (Beito 119).

With ellipsis: "Since graduating. . . Eva had been taking medicine to relieve the pain of her rheumatoid arthritis" (Beito 119).



Note



- You may cut out text from anywhere within a sentence and replace it with an ellipsis as long as the remaining portions of the sentence still make sense.
- If you have an entire paragraph, but only want a few complete sentences, you may leave out entire sentences, as long as you use an ellipsis between sentences.

Example of Text Omitted From the End

- **Original quote:** "Cora's success and public visibility seemed to destroy Andy's own self-esteem; he felt diminished in the eyes of the community" (Beito 191).
- **With ellipsis:** "Cora's success and public visibility seemed to destroy Andy's own self-esteem. . ." (Beito 191).



Usage 2

- Use an ellipsis to indicate when a character trails off in thinking or in speaking.

Example: Harold said, "I'm not so sure about this. . ."



Usage 3

- **Use an Ellipsis to indicate pauses or breaks in the thought process or in conversation.**

Example: Lucy said, “I am not sure what we should have for dinner...how about some McDonalds!”

