Uses of the Ellipsis

An ellipsis is a series of three dots (. . .) which shows that some text has been left out. Omitted material can include the passage of time, an unfinished thought, or text from a quotation that does not affect the meaning of the quotation.

DIRECTIONS: Read each sentence below. Identify what the ellipsis in each sentence indicates. Write the correct letter on the line.

A. passage of time B. an unfinished thought C. text from a quotation

_____ 1. "I couldn't help noticing . . ." Mark's voice trailed off.

_____ 2. It rained . . . and rained . . . we thought it would never stop.

_____ 3. Without even being asked, Mary told us, "The tickets are cheap . . . but I still can't really recommend the performance."

_____ 4. The clock chimed . . . and then chimed again . . . she counted sheep . . . and still Eloise could not sleep.

_____ 5. "I can't stand that girl," Olive said. "She's so . . . I hate her."

_____ 6. With the factory . . . the town's economy declined rapidly.

_____ 7. Chopin . . . was a very gifted musician.

_____ 8. I read that book . . . I wrote a report on it.



LIVEWORKSHEETS