



The Ellipsis

An ellipsis is a series of three dots (. . .) which shows that some text has been left out. It is used to shorten a long quotation by removing words that don't change the meaning of what is being quoted. An ellipsis can also be used to indicate a pause, hesitation, the passage of time, or an incomplete thought.

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

A. a pause

B. hesitation

C. an incomplete thought

D. the passage of time

1. "Mom . . ." Hank said, knowing he was about to upset his mother.

2. The siren wailed . . . Then there was silence.

3. "I'm not going to be able to make it Saturday because . . ."

4. "If I could just think of something . . ."

5. "Well . . . Um . . . I suppose I could do that."

6. John did his best . . . but in the end, it wasn't good enough.

7. Gosh . . . I don't know. So many choices.

8. "Fiona," Jake began. "I was wondering . . . do you think . . ."