



# 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 . . ."