

Dot Detective

Sort ellipses by how they are used.

6.L.GC.1.50 "Mechanics: Use ellipses appropriately. (Introduce)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

CORRECT USE

Use an ellipsis, three dots (...), to show that words were left out of a quotation.

The article says, "Bees visit flowers ... and carry pollen."

INCORRECT USE

Do not use an ellipsis just to show a pause or to replace a comma between words.

We packed water, snacks, and sunscreen.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

For each item, circle CORRECT or INCORRECT, then choose two items and explain how you knew.

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 1. The article states, "Sea turtles ... return to the same beach." | <input type="button" value="CORRECT"/> | <input type="button" value="INCORRECT"/> |
| <hr/> | | |
| 2. In her report, Nia quoted, "The museum ... opens at ten." | <input type="button" value="CORRECT"/> | <input type="button" value="INCORRECT"/> |
| <hr/> | | |
| 3. "I need to ... finish my homework," said Omar. | <input type="button" value="CORRECT"/> | <input type="button" value="INCORRECT"/> |
| <hr/> | | |
| 4. The guide explained, "The cave ... stays cool all year." | <input type="button" value="CORRECT"/> | <input type="button" value="INCORRECT"/> |
| <hr/> | | |
| 5. Bring pencils ... paper and folders. | <input type="button" value="CORRECT"/> | <input type="button" value="INCORRECT"/> |
| <hr/> | | |
| 6. The bell rang ... we left class. | <input type="button" value="CORRECT"/> | <input type="button" value="INCORRECT"/> |
| <hr/> | | |
| 7. The scientist wrote, "Volcanoes ... can form new land." | <input type="button" value="CORRECT"/> | <input type="button" value="INCORRECT"/> |
| <hr/> | | |
| 8. The speaker said, "Our team ... finished the project early." | <input type="button" value="CORRECT"/> | <input type="button" value="INCORRECT"/> |
| <hr/> | | |

2 PROVE IT Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN One of each

Write one new sentence with a correctly used ellipsis and one new sentence with an incorrectly used ellipsis.

CORRECT _____

INCORRECT _____

CHALLENGE

Write two sentences. In the first sentence, name a speaker or source. In the second sentence, use an ellipsis correctly in a quotation.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The article states, "Sea turtles ... return to the same beach."	CORRECT	The ellipsis shows that words were omitted from a quotation.
2	In her report, Nia quoted, "The museum ... opens at ten."	CORRECT	The ellipsis shows omitted words in a quotation.
3	"I need to ... finish my homework," said Omar.	INCORRECT	The dots show a pause, not omitted words from a quotation.
4	The guide explained, "The cave ... stays cool all year."	CORRECT	The ellipsis shows that part of the guide's words was left out.
5	Bring pencils ... paper and folders.	INCORRECT	The ellipsis incorrectly replaces a comma in a list.
6	The bell rang ... we left class.	INCORRECT	The dots incorrectly show a pause between actions.
7	The scientist wrote, "Volcanoes ... can form new land."	CORRECT	The ellipsis shows omitted words in a quotation.
8	The speaker said, "Our team ... finished the project early."	CORRECT	The ellipsis correctly shows that words were left out of the quotation.

PART 2 • PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 • MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **CORRECT:** The guide said, "The trail ... ends near the lake."
- **INCORRECT:** We waited ... for the bus.

Challenge: The park guide explained the trail rules. She said, "Hikers must ... stay on marked paths."

Accept correct examples only when the ellipsis shows omitted words in a quotation. In Part 2, students should identify whether the dots show omitted quoted words or are incorrectly used as a pause or comma.