

Ellipsis Detectives

Sort ellipses by what they show.

7.L.GC.1.50 "Mechanics: Use ellipses appropriately. (Continue)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

QUOTED WORDS OMITTED

Use an ellipsis to show that words were left out of a quotation. The remaining quoted words must keep the source's meaning clear.

The guide explains, "Coral reefs support ... countless sea creatures."

THOUGHT TRAILING OFF

Use an ellipsis when a speaker's thought fades away or stops before the sentence is finished. This use often appears in dialogue.

"Behind that curtain, I can see a..." muttered Jae.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle the category for each item, then choose two item numbers and explain whether each ellipsis leaves out quoted words or shows an unfinished thought.

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|----|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. | The historian wrote, "The bridge opened in 1926 ... changed travel across the valley." | ☐ OMITTED | ☐ TRAILING |
| 2. | The report states, "Solar panels convert sunlight ... electricity for homes." | ☐ OMITTED | ☐ TRAILING |
| 3. | "If the map is wrong, then we might..." Priya whispered. | ☐ OMITTED | ☐ TRAILING |
| 4. | In her speech, Lena said, "Our club collected ... 500 cans for recycling." | ☐ OMITTED | ☐ TRAILING |
| 5. | Malik stared at the broken robot and said, "Maybe the wire..." | ☐ OMITTED | ☐ TRAILING |
| 6. | "I was about to answer, but..." Omar said. | ☐ OMITTED | ☐ TRAILING |
| 7. | The sign read, "Visitors must stay on paths ... protect nesting birds." | ☐ OMITTED | ☐ TRAILING |
| 8. | The journal notes, "Rain filled the creek ... washed branches downstream." | ☐ OMITTED | ☐ TRAILING |

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 for OMITTED and one new sentence for TRAILING.

OMITTED _____

TRAILING _____

CHALLENGE

Use this source sentence to write a shorter quotation with an ellipsis: "The garden opens at nine each morning and closes at five each evening."

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The historian wrote, "The bridge opened in 1926 ... changed travel across the valley."	OMITTED	The ellipsis shows that words were omitted from a quotation.
2	The report states, "Solar panels convert sunlight ... electricity for homes."	OMITTED	The ellipsis leaves out words from the quoted report.
3	"If the map is wrong, then we might..." Priya whispered.	TRAILING	Priya does not finish her thought.
4	In her speech, Lena said, "Our club collected ... 500 cans for recycling."	OMITTED	The ellipsis shows omitted words in Lena's quoted speech.
5	Malik stared at the broken robot and said, "Maybe the wire..."	TRAILING	Malik's thought trails off before he finishes.
6	"I was about to answer, but..." Omar said.	TRAILING	Omar stops speaking before completing the sentence.
7	The sign read, "Visitors must stay on paths ... protect nesting birds."	OMITTED	The ellipsis marks words left out of the sign's quotation.
8	The journal notes, "Rain filled the creek ... washed branches downstream."	OMITTED	The ellipsis shows that words were removed from a 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)

- **OMITTED:** The biography says, "The inventor tested ... several designs before choosing one."
- **TRAILING:** "I wish the bus would..." Mateo sighed.

Challenge: The brochure says, "The garden opens at nine ... closes at five."

Sort answers: 1, 2, 4, 7, and 8 are OMITTED. Items 3, 5, and 6 are TRAILING. For Part 2, students should identify the ellipsis purpose and point to the quoted source or unfinished dialogue.