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.

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."

ANSWER KEY

Ellipsis Detectives

GRADE 7 · 7.L.GC.1.50

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.