Pause or Missing?

Sort commas and ellipses by what they do.

8.W.7.a "Punctuation – Using punctuation (e.g., comma, ellipsis, dash) to indicate a pause, break, or omission."

NAME _____ DATE _____

COMMA PAUSE

A comma after an opening phrase marks a brief pause before the main idea.

Before sunrise, the baker kneaded dough.

ELLIPSIS OMISSION

An ellipsis shows where words have been left out of a quotation. Compare the original with the shortened version to see what is missing.

Original: 'Jupiter has dozens of moons.'
Shortened: 'Jupiter has ... moons.'

1 SORT

8 items

Circle PAUSE or OMISSION for each item; then choose two items and explain how the punctuation helped you decide.

1.	After the storm, Maya checked the garden.	PAUSE OMISSION
2.	At the final whistle, the players shook hands.	PAUSE OMISSION
3.	Original: 'The fox darted quickly through tall grass.' Shortened: 'The fox darted ... through tall grass.'	PAUSE OMISSION
4.	Without a map, Luis found the museum.	PAUSE OMISSION
5.	Original: 'The library displayed three rare maps from Peru.' Shortened: 'The library displayed ... maps from Peru.'	PAUSE OMISSION
6.	Original: 'The hikers discovered an ancient trail beyond the lake.' Shortened: 'The hikers discovered ... trail beyond the lake.'	PAUSE OMISSION
7.	During the film, the audience stayed silent.	PAUSE OMISSION
8.	Near the river, the campers spotted a heron.	PAUSE OMISSION

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 comma that marks a pause, and write one original-and-shortened quotation pair with an ellipsis that shows omitted words.

PAUSE _____

OMISSION _____

CHALLENGE

Write an original sentence with an opening phrase, a comma, and two descriptive words together; then quote it with those two words replaced by an ellipsis.

ANSWER KEY

Pause or Missing?

GRADE 8 · 8.W.7.a

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	After the storm, Maya checked the garden.	**PAUSE**	The comma marks a pause after the opening phrase.
2	At the final whistle, the players shook hands.	**PAUSE**	The comma marks a pause after the opening phrase.
3	Original: 'The fox darted quickly through tall grass.' Shortened: 'The fox darted ... through tall grass.'	**OMISSION**	The ellipsis replaces 'quickly' in the shortened quotation.
4	Without a map, Luis found the museum.	**PAUSE**	The comma marks a pause after the opening phrase.
5	Original: 'The library displayed three rare maps from Peru.' Shortened: 'The library displayed ... maps from Peru.'	**OMISSION**	The ellipsis replaces 'three rare' in the shortened quotation.
6	Original: 'The hikers discovered an ancient trail beyond the lake.' Shortened: 'The hikers discovered ... trail beyond the lake.'	**OMISSION**	The ellipsis replaces 'an ancient' in the shortened quotation.
7	During the film, the audience stayed silent.	**PAUSE**	The comma marks a pause after the opening phrase.
8	Near the river, the campers spotted a heron.	**PAUSE**	The comma marks a pause after the opening phrase.

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)

- **PAUSE**: Before the play, Tessa checked her lines.
- **OMISSION**: Original: 'The singer wore a silver velvet jacket.' Shortened: 'The singer wore a ... jacket.'

Challenge: Original: 'After lunch, the tiny gray mouse crossed the floor.' Shortened: 'After lunch, the ... mouse crossed the floor.'

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify the comma as a pause after an opening phrase or name the words replaced by an ellipsis. In the challenge sample, 'tiny gray' is omitted while the opening comma remains.