What Dots Do

Sort ellipses by the job they do.

L.8.2 "When writing: Demonstrate appropriate use of punctuation to indicate a pause or break. Demonstrate appropriate use of an ellipsis to indicate an omission..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

WORDS LEFT OUT

In a shortened quotation, an ellipsis shows where words from the original text were left out. Compare the original and shortened versions to check.

Original: "The curious fox crossed the snowy field before sunrise." Shortened: "The curious fox crossed the snowy field ... before sunrise."

A PAUSE

In dialogue, an ellipsis can show that a speaker stops briefly before continuing. No words need to be missing.

"I thought the answer was ... wait, I need another minute," said Priya.

1 SORT

8 items

For each numbered item, circle OMISSION if the ellipsis marks missing words from a quotation or PAUSE if it marks a speaker stopping briefly.

1.	Original: "The library opens early on Saturdays during the summer." Shortened: "The library opens early ... during the summer."	OMISSION PAUSE
2.	Original: "Our class planted six maple trees near the playground." Shortened: "Our class planted six maple trees ... the playground."	OMISSION PAUSE
3.	"The package should be here ... any minute now," said Ben.	OMISSION PAUSE
4.	Original: "The chef added fresh basil to the tomato sauce." Shortened: "The chef added ... to the tomato sauce."	OMISSION PAUSE
5.	"If we turn left ... no, this is the wrong street," said Nia.	OMISSION PAUSE
6.	"I was going to ask ... actually, never mind," said Omar.	OMISSION PAUSE
7.	Original: "The museum displays ancient coins from many countries." Shortened: "The museum displays ancient coins ... many countries."	OMISSION PAUSE
8.	Original: "Heavy rain delayed the outdoor concert until Sunday." Shortened: "Heavy rain delayed the outdoor concert ... Sunday."	OMISSION PAUSE

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

Choose two numbered items, one from each category. For each, write the number and explain how you knew where it belonged. Then write your own example of each category: show an original and shortened quotation for OMISSION, and write one line of dialogue for PAUSE.

OMISSION _____

PAUSE _____

CHALLENGE

Write a two-line exchange between speakers. In one line, show the full text of a sign and a shortened quotation from it using an ellipsis. In the other line, use an ellipsis to show a pause.

What Dots Do

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Original: "The library opens early on Saturdays during the summer." Shortened: "The library opens early ... during the summer."	**OMISSION**	The shortened quotation leaves out "on Saturdays."
2	Original: "Our class planted six maple trees near the playground." Shortened: "Our class planted six maple trees ... the playground."	**OMISSION**	The shortened quotation leaves out "near."
3	"The package should be here ... any minute now," said Ben.	**PAUSE**	Ben pauses before finishing his thought.
4	Original: "The chef added fresh basil to the tomato sauce." Shortened: "The chef added ... to the tomato sauce."	**OMISSION**	The shortened quotation leaves out "fresh basil."
5	"If we turn left ... no, this is the wrong street," said Nia.	**PAUSE**	Nia pauses while reconsidering which way to turn.
6	"I was going to ask ... actually, never mind," said Omar.	**PAUSE**	Omar pauses before changing what he says.
7	Original: "The museum displays ancient coins from many countries." Shortened: "The museum displays ancient coins ... many countries."	**OMISSION**	The shortened quotation leaves out "from."
8	Original: "Heavy rain delayed the outdoor concert until Sunday." Shortened: "Heavy rain delayed the outdoor concert ... Sunday."	**OMISSION**	The shortened quotation leaves out "until."

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)

- **OMISSION**: Original: "The bus stops at the corner after school." Shortened: "The bus stops at the corner ... school."
- **PAUSE**: "I can carry the box ... if you open the door," said Jules.

Challenge: Maya: The sign says, "Keep the trail clean and stay on the marked path." I shortened it to "Keep the trail clean ... on the marked path." Leo: I think ... we should pick up that wrapper.

Sort key: 1 OMISSION, 2 OMISSION, 3 PAUSE, 4 OMISSION, 5 PAUSE, 6 PAUSE, 7 OMISSION, 8 OMISSION. In Part 2, accept explanations that identify missing words in a shortened quotation or a speaker's pause in dialogue.