Dot Detective

Sort ellipses by how they are used.

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

NAME _____ DATE _____

CORRECT USE

An ellipsis (…) marks omitted quoted words without changing meaning, or hesitation/trailing off in fictional dialogue.

"I need to … finish my homework," Omar hesitated.

INCORRECT USE

Do not replace a needed list comma or omit words in a way that changes meaning. Judge the context.

A plain list needs commas: We packed water, snacks, and sunscreen.

1 SORT

8 items

Classroom-authored examples: circle CORRECT or INCORRECT. Compare full/short quotations for meaning, then explain two choices.

1.	Full: "Ali, our captain, smiled." Short: "Ali … smiled."	CORRECT INCORRECT
2.	Full: "The museum here opens at ten." Short: "The museum … opens at ten."	CORRECT INCORRECT
3.	"I need to … finish my homework," said Omar, hesitating.	CORRECT INCORRECT
4.	Full: "The room on the ground floor stays cool." Shortened: "The room … stays cool."	CORRECT INCORRECT
5.	In a plain supply list: Bring pencils … paper and folders.	CORRECT INCORRECT
6.	Full: "The club is not meeting today." Shortened: "The club is … meeting today."	CORRECT INCORRECT
7.	Full: "Our class today met." Short: "Our class … met."	CORRECT INCORRECT
8.	"Our team …," said Noor, letting her voice trail off.	CORRECT INCORRECT

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 sentence with an appropriate ellipsis and one with an inappropriate ellipsis. Make the context clear: hesitation in fictional dialogue, or full and shortened quotations for omission; label a plain list if using a comma error.

CORRECT

INCORRECT

CHALLENGE

Write two sentences about an invented classroom speaker. First give the full quotation. Then give a shortened quotation using an ellipsis without changing its meaning.

ANSWER KEY # Dot Detective

GRADE 6 · 6.L.GC.1.50

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Full: “Ali, our captain, smiled.” Short: “Ali ... smiled.”	**CORRECT**	Omitting the appositive our captain preserves who smiled.
2	Full: “The museum here opens at ten.” Short: “The museum ... opens at ten.”	**CORRECT**	Omitting here preserves the opening time.
3	“I need to ... finish my homework,” said Omar, hesitating.	**CORRECT**	The ellipsis appropriately marks hesitation in fictional dialogue.
4	Full: “The room on the ground floor stays cool.” Shortened: “The room ... stays cool.”	**CORRECT**	Omitting on the ground floor preserves the statement.
5	In a plain supply list: Bring pencils ... paper and folders.	**INCORRECT**	A comma is needed between list items; no hesitation or omitted quotation is intended.
6	Full: “The club is not meeting today.” Shortened: “The club is ... meeting today.”	**INCORRECT**	Removing not reverses the meaning of the full quotation.
7	Full: “Our class today met.” Short: “Our class ... met.”	**CORRECT**	Omitting today preserves the main statement.
8	“Our team ...,” said Noor, letting her voice trail off.	**CORRECT**	The ellipsis marks a voice trailing off in fictional dialogue.

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**: "I thought … perhaps we could try again," Mina hesitated.
- **INCORRECT**: In a plain supply list: Pack pens … paper and folders.

Challenge: Noor said, "The trail beside our school ends near the gate." Noor's shortened words are "The trail … ends near the gate."

Part 1: CORRECT, CORRECT, CORRECT, CORRECT, INCORRECT, INCORRECT, CORRECT, CORRECT. Accept reasons identifying preserved meaning in omissions, dialogue hesitation/trailing off, misleading removal of not or an inappropriate list comma. For Part 3, judge the stated context; legitimate fictional pauses are correct. For the challenge, compare the full and shortened invented quotations and preserve meaning. All quotation examples are classroom-authored, not authenticated external quotations.