

## Ellipses

Ellipsis (plural: ellipses) is a punctuation mark consisting of the three periods ( . . . ) that indicates omission. It saves space by removing less relevant information.

- **When omitting the beginning of a sentence, follow the opening quotation mark with an ellipsis, plus a bracketed capital letter.**

Example:

1. “. . . [W]henever they meet, it’s always on a rainy day.  
(“It’s strange that whenever they meet, it’s always on a rainy day.”)
2. “. . . [B]efore they even made plans, he had already decided.”  
(“No one had any travel ideas or which country to visit but before they even made plans, he had already decided to go solo.”)
3. “. . . [H]ard work will eventually pay off.”  
(“I believe that hard work will eventually pay off.”)
4. “. . . [I]mpossible; there’s no way he can do that.”  
(“That’s ridiculous and utterly impossible; there’s no way he can do that.”)

- **Use ellipsis to take out redundant or irrelevant words or a sentence.**

Example:

*original: I’ve never been so happy in my entire life.*

*This is the first time; It’s all because of you.*

with Ellipsis: I’ve never been so happy in my entire life . . . It’s all because of you.

*original: Everyone is unique; it is cliché but true. No two persons are exactly the*

*same, neither twins nor triplets, genetically speaking. What we are born with, which are wired in our intricate DNAs, outlines our traits, intelligence, and many other characteristics.*

with Ellipses: Everyone is unique; it is cliché but true. . . What we are born with, which are wired in our intricate DNAs, outlines our traits, intelligence, and many other characteristics.

*original: When the Spaniards first arrived in the Visayan islands in 1521, they labelled the natives of this region as "pintados", meaning "painted people" or "painted ones", as most of their entire bodies were covered in tattoos leaving only their hands and feet bare.*

with Ellipses: When the Spaniards first arrived in the Visayan islands in 1521, they labelled the natives of this region as "pintados". . . as most of their entire bodies were covered in tattoos leaving only their hands and feet bare.

*original: The magazine states: "The atmosphere is relaxing and almost like you're traveling back in time when modernity has not yet consumed the wilderness. It's quiet, rustic and you cannot see tall skyscrapers."*

With Ellipses: The magazine states: "The atmosphere is relaxing ... and you cannot see tall skyscrapers."

- **To express hesitation, suspense, changes of mood, and thoughts trailing off, pause**

Example:

1. I'm not sure but . . . maybe . . .
2. What do you mean . . . by that?
3. "I'm really sorry. I was just . . . trying to help. I didn't know that . . ." She started crying, sobs drowning her voice.
4. "An average girl, you may call me . . . err . . . perhaps a little bit below the average."

- **Using ellipses with other punctuation marks**

- a. Question marks and Exclamation points**

Example:

1. Where were you? . . . Where did you go? (omission in between sentences)
2. Where were you . . . ? Where did you go? (omission before the first question mark)
3. How could you! . . . Stop being so mean! (omission in between sentences)
4. He dares to call me a . . . ! (omission before the first exclamation mark)

- b. Commas and semicolons**

Example:

1. I gave him the key, . . . and the portal has been opened.
2. I gave him the key . . . ; The portal has been opened.
3. He would go to bars, . . . and return home tired.
4. He would go to bars . . . ; Then, he returns home tired.

## EXERCISES

- 1. When omitting the beginning of a sentence, follow the opening quotation mark with an ellipsis, plus a bracketed capital letter.**

**Omit the underlined phrases and replace them with ellipses. Capitalize and put the first letter in brackets.**

1. "On the contrary, such want for conformity seems to arouse our need for self-acknowledgment."
2. "Are you ready for your dream escapade? We have various travel packages to quench your wanderlust. Visit us and choose from our affordable week-long sightseeing tour packages in Europe."
3. "My mama told me when I was young that we are all born superstars."
4. "I remember he told me that worrying is like sitting on a rocking chair."
5. "One of its most famous natural sights is the Rafflesia mira, a parasitic plant known as the world's largest flower and for its rotting odor.
6. "Those interested in cultural pursuits should visit a Mansaka village in Maragusan. The Mansaka were some of the province's first settlers, and a visit to their village allows you to experience indigenous culture and its native dances first-hand.

- 2. Use ellipsis to take out redundant or irrelevant words or sentences.**

**Rewrite the sentences and paragraphs using ellipses.**

1. If kids grow kale, kids eat kale. If they grow tomatoes, they eat tomatoes. But when none of this is presented to them, if they're not shown how food affects the mind and body, they blindly eat whatever you put in front of them.
2. "Good morning. I'm in a hurry. I need to catch the bus in ten minutes. Could you call me back after an hour?"
3. It's no surprise. Everyone knows who he is and what he does. We expected he'll

do just that.

4. "I didn't understand what he was saying at all. I was staring at him, trying to make something out of the incomprehensible words coming out of his mouth. Then, I told him that I don't speak Japanese."
5. "I'm sorry, I'm exhausted. I'm too tired to talk."
6. Today was a blessed day. I woke up early because I had a meeting at 7 a.m. On the way to work, I stopped at a coffee shop to get my morning espresso. I took the bus to work. I started the paperwork as soon as I arrived at the office. After the meeting, I got a call from my wife. Her doctor confirmed her pregnancy.

**3. To express hesitation, suspense, changes of mood, and thoughts trailing off, pause**

**Match the phrases in A to those that best suit the meaning in B.**

- | <b>A</b>  | <b>B</b>                |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1. Are you sure . . .                           | a. really happen.       |
| 2. I'm a little bit worried that it might . . . | b. about that?          |
| 3. Did you just say . . .                       | c. in the world . . . ! |
| 4. Is . . .                                     | d. me.                  |
| 5. Hello, it's . . .                            | e. this enough?         |
| 6. What . . .                                   | f. you need me?         |

**4. Using ellipses with other punctuation marks**

**Which of the two sentences uses correct punctuation? Circle the letter of your answer.**

1. A. "Have you ever tried skydiving? . . . You better include it in your bucket list."  
 B. "Have you ever tried skydiving?. . . You better include it in your bucket list".
2. A. "Why don't you . . .?"  
 B. "Why don't you . . . "?

3. A. We had ham and eggs for breakfast . . . We had barbecue for dinner.  
B. We had ham and eggs for breakfast . . . ; We had barbecue for dinner.
4. A. Kyle exclaimed, “I know that! I just cannot help but . . . !”  
B. Kyle exclaimed, “I know that! I just cannot help but! . . .”
5. A. Jason entered the room, . . . and we waited, but he never came out.”  
B. Jason entered the room, . . and we waited, but he never came out.”
6. A. “Well . . . I was thinking maybe we can; . . . Oh, never mind, I’ll go alone.”  
B. “Well . . . I was thinking maybe we can . . . ; Oh, never mind, I’ll go alone.”

#### ANSWER KEY

1. **When omitting the beginning of a sentence, follow the opening quotation mark with an ellipsis, plus a bracketed capital letter.**

**Omit the underlined phrases and replace them with ellipses. Capitalize and put the first letter in brackets.**

ANSWERS:

1. “... [S]uch want for conformity seems to arouse our need for self-acknowledgment.”
2. “... [C]hoose from our affordable week-long sightseeing tour packages in Europe.”
3. “[... [W]e are all born superstars.”
4. “... [W]orrying is like sitting on a rocking chair.”
5. “... [T]he Rafflesia mira, a parasitic plant known as the world’s largest flower and for its rotting odor.

6. "... [V]isit a Mansaka village in Maragusan. The Mansaka were some of the province's first settlers, and a visit to their village allows you to experience indigenous culture and its native dances first-hand.

**2. Use ellipsis to take out redundant or irrelevant words or sentences.**

**Rewrite the sentences and paragraphs using ellipses.**

ANSWERS:

1. If kids grow kale, kids eat kale... If they're not shown how food affects the mind and body, they blindly eat whatever you put in front of them.
2. "Good morning. I'm in a hurry... call me back after an hour?"
3. It's no surprise... We expected he'll do just that.
4. "I didn't understand what he was saying at all... Then, I told him that I don't speak Japanese."
5. "I'm sorry... I'm too tired to talk."
6. Today was a blessed day... I got a call from my wife. Her doctor confirmed her pregnancy.

**3. To express hesitation, suspense, changes of mood, and thoughts trailing off, pause**

**Match the phrases in A to those that best suit the meaning in B.**

ANSWERS:

1. F

2. A
3. B
4. E
5. D
6. C

**4. Using ellipses with other punctuation marks**

**Which of the two sentences uses correct punctuation? Circle the letter of your answer.**

ANSWERS:

1. A
2. A
3. A
4. A
5. A
6. B