

# Dot, Dot, Dot: The Ellipsis

An ellipsis is a series of three dots (. . .) which shows that some text has been left out. The ellipsis is used to shorten a passage. The omitted text does not change the meaning of the original text and is unnecessary to its meaning.

**Example with complete text:**

The guests who visited the school on Thursday afternoon were impressed by the library.

**Example with ellipsis:**

The guests . . . were impressed by the library.

Note there is a space before and after the ellipsis. If the ellipsis comes at the end of a sentence, the ellipsis is followed by a space and a period.

**Example with complete text:**

The parade had clowns, floats and a brass band which wore blue uniforms.

**Example with ellipsis:**

The parade had clowns, floats and a brass band . . . .

Rewrite each sentence below omitting text and using an ellipsis.

1. We were cautioned by the 8th grade World History teacher Mrs. Petersen not to run in the halls.
2. The important point to make, and I cannot say it too often, is that music and art are important factors in a culture.
3. He couldn't run fast enough, although he tried with all his might, to catch the carriage as it traveled down the road.
4. When we think about it carefully, and we should be careful to think about it, the use of punctuation is a science and an art.
5. The children played on all the playground equipment including the swings, the slide, the monkey bars, and the merry-go-round.

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The parade had clowns, floats and a brass band . . . .

Rewrite each sentence below omitting text and using an ellipsis.

**Answers: Student's answers will vary. Examples of correct answers.**

1. We were cautioned by the 8th grade World History teacher Mrs. Petersen not to run in the halls.

**We were cautioned by . . . Mrs. Petersen not to run in the halls.**

2. The important point to make, and I cannot say it too often, is that music and art are important factors in a culture.

**The important point to make . . . is that music and art are important factors in a culture.**

3. He couldn't run fast enough, although he tried with all his might, to catch the carriage as it traveled down the road.

**He couldn't run fast enough . . . to catch the carriage as it traveled down the road.**

4. When we think about it carefully, and we should be careful to think about it, the use of punctuation is a science and an art.

**When we think about it carefully . . . the use of punctuation is a science and an art.**

5. The children played on all the playground equipment including the swings, the slide, the monkey bars, and the merry-go-round.

**The children played on all the playground equipment . . . .**