

INDICATE AN OMISSION WITH AN ELLIPSIS

An **ellipsis** (. . .) is a series of three periods with a space before and after each one. An ellipsis is used to show where words in a quotation have been omitted.

When using an ellipsis, make sure that the resulting text is grammatically correct and preserves the original meaning of the quotation. Use ellipses to mark all instances where you have removed text, except before the first word or after the last word of a quotation. Look at the examples below.

When traveling to the Carribean, home to many sun-baked beaches, remember to pack lots of sunscreen.

✗ “When traveling . . . pack lots of sunscreen.”

This quotation no longer has the same meaning as the original text.

✗ “When traveling to the Carribean, . . . to pack lots of sunscreen.”

This quotation is not grammatically correct.

✓ “When traveling to the Carribean, . . . remember to pack lots of sunscreen.”

This quotation is grammatically correct and retains the meaning of the original text.



Keep in mind that there may be more than one correct way to shorten a text!

Directions: Create a shortened quotation of each scenario, using ellipses appropriately. **Sample answers:**

- Igneous rocks come in a variety of shapes and textures, ranging from coarse-grained boulders to thin strands of volcanic glass, depending on how and where they are formed.
“Igneous rocks come in a variety of shapes and textures . . . depending on how and where they are formed.”
- In a break from tradition, the university’s award ceremony took place at the historic train station downtown instead of the university’s auditorium, due to ongoing construction on campus.
“The university’s award ceremony took place at the historic train station downtown . . . due to ongoing construction on campus.”
- Members of the local women’s professional soccer team, the Hill City Wildcats, want to personally thank the local community for all their support this season, so team members will be out at Valley Park on Saturday to talk with fans and sign autographs.
“Members of . . . the Hill City Wildcats . . . will be out at Valley Park on Saturday to talk with fans and sign autographs.”
- The famous scientist Marie Curie, born in Poland on November 8, 1867, as Maria Sklodowska, won the Nobel Prize twice—once for physics and once for chemistry.
“The famous scientist Marie Curie . . . won the Nobel prize twice—once for physics and once for chemistry.”
- Although many people think that excellent cooking requires expensive ingredients and professional equipment, Chef Samin Nosrat explains in her 2017 cookbook, *Salt, Fat, Acid, Heat*, how even beginners can utilize four simple elements to master any cuisine for delicious results.
“Chef Samin Nosrat explains in her 2017 cookbook, *Salt, Fat, Acid, Heat*, how even beginners can . . . master any cuisine with delicious results.”