

IS THE ELLIPSIS USED CORRECTLY?

An ellipsis (. . .) is a series of three periods that is used to show where words in a quotation have been omitted.

When using an ellipsis in a quotation, the resulting text should be grammatically correct and preserve the original meaning of the source. Ellipses are used in all instances where text has been removed, except before the first word or after the last word of a quotation. Look at the examples below.

Scientists work to protect Florida's mangrove forests, including the alligators, wading birds, seahorses, and many other unique species that live there.

"Scientists work to protect . . . wading birds, seahorses, and many other unique species."

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

"Scientists work to protect Florida's mangrove forests, . . . many other unique species."

This quotation is not grammatically correct.

"Scientists work to protect Florida's mangrove forests, including the . . . many . . . unique species that live there."

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

Read the paragraphs below and the quotations that follow. Determine if the ellipses are used correctly in the quotations, and circle your answer. If an ellipsis is used incorrectly, explain your reasoning on the line.

It is important for people with cats to learn what feline behaviors can mean. Cats' seemingly random actions may indicate they are happy and content, bored, or even sick. For example, when cats rub their head against your leg or on furniture around the house, they are marking their territory. In other words, they're showing that they're happy that you "belong" to them. Another sign of appreciation is when cats press their paws into you as if they are kneading bread. This behavior goes back to when the cat was nursing and used the same kneading motion to receive more milk to drink. Not all feline behaviors are happy ones, though. Cats exhibit a range of behaviors to show they feel sick or unsafe. Most people know that cats hiss when threatened, but many people may not realize that less common behaviors can also serve as clues into how a cat is feeling. For example, yowling in the middle of the night or chewing on non-food items may indicate that your cat is sick or bored. People who care for cats should be on the lookout for these and other behavior signals to help them better understand their feline friends.

Example: "Cats' seemingly random actions . . . are happy and content."

CORRECT | **INCORRECT** The quotation no longer has the same meaning as the original text.

1 "When cats rub their head against your leg . . . they are marking their territory."

CORRECT | **INCORRECT** _____

2 "Another sign of appreciation is when cats . . . are kneading bread."

CORRECT | **INCORRECT** _____

3 "Cats hiss when threatened . . . how a cat is feeling."

CORRECT | **INCORRECT** _____

4 "Yowling in the middle of the night . . . may indicate that your cat is sick or bored."

CORRECT | **INCORRECT** _____

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Keep going! Read the paragraphs below and the quotations that follow. Determine if the ellipses are used correctly in the quotations, and circle your answer. If an ellipsis is used incorrectly, explain your reasoning on the line.

Unlike today's GPS systems, the earliest maps were not intended to be used for precise navigation. Instead, they were often created as a type of art or to express authority. One of the oldest known maps was made on a clay tablet in Mesopotamia around 700 to 500 BCE. Historians believe that the map was likely meant to display the Babylonian view of the mythical world, rather than to serve as a faithful representation of the region. Later, in the fourth or fifth century CE, the Romans made a map of their empire on a long, thin scroll. This map displayed hundreds of locations in the Roman Empire, but it was centered on the system of roads used by the *cursus publicus*, the public courier service, so the distances from north to south were not at the same scale as the distances from east to west. Some historians hypothesize that the Roman scroll was meant to emphasize the strength of the Roman Empire, rather than serve as a navigational guide.

5 "One of the oldest known maps . . . in Mesopotamia around 700 to 500 BCE."

CORRECT | INCORRECT _____

6 "This map . . . was centered on the system of roads used by . . . the public courier service."

CORRECT | INCORRECT _____

7 "Some historians . . . emphasize the strength of the Roman Empire."

CORRECT | INCORRECT _____

Surf parks are the latest trend making a splash in the tourism industry. Developers have been designing and refining artificial wave machines since 1987, and decades later, the technology finally mimics the ocean surf. Artificial wave machines make it possible to surf anywhere, such as inland areas with no ocean in sight, or anytime, including days when the ocean is too calm for good surfing. Another advantage of artificial waves is consistency—for both practice and tournaments alike. Some surfers like that they can reliably hone their moves on the wave's predictable swell size and pattern. Some say that artificial waves will also level the playing field for contests because all surfers will face the same conditions. However, many surfers criticize the new technology and assert that it eliminates the skill of "reading" the ocean. Others worry about the environmental impacts and costs of building and maintaining surf parks. Time will tell if surf parks are just a passing fad or the wave of the future.

8 "Developers have been . . . refining artificial wave machines since 1987, and . . . the technology finally mimics the ocean surf."

CORRECT | INCORRECT _____

9 "Some say that artificial waves will . . . face the same conditions."

CORRECT | INCORRECT _____

10 "However, many surfers criticize the new technology . . . eliminates the skill of 'reading' the ocean."

CORRECT | INCORRECT _____