

USE ELLIPSES IN NARRATIVE DIALOGUE



An **ellipsis** (. . .) is a series of three dots that can be used to indicate a pause, hesitation, or break in a speaker's thoughts. Ellipses represent a more dramatic pause than a comma but a less confident pause than a dash. Used sparingly, ellipses can be great tools in narrative or informal writing to help readers "hear" written dialogue more clearly.

Directions: For each scenario, write a line of dialogue incorporating ellipses to show the desired pause.

Ex. Scenario: **a pause to announce competition results**

"And the grand prize goes to . . . Jennifer!"

1 Scenario: **a pause to consider the best way to accomplish a task**

2 Scenario: **a break to recall the name of something**

3 Scenario: **a hesitation before revealing something embarrassing**

4 Scenario: **a pause to share good news**

5 Scenario: **a hesitation before telling someone a secret**

6 Scenario: **a break to show that the speaker cannot believe what they just saw**

7 Scenario: **a pause to figure out the way to a destination**

8 Scenario: **a hesitation to show that the speaker is unsure of how to describe an event**

9 Scenario: **a break to show that the speaker doesn't know what to say next and trails off**

10 Scenario: **a pause because the speaker is feeling anxious about trying something new**
