

Dashes and Ellipses

The background features a dark, almost black, upper section with several bright, white, diagonal light rays emanating from the right side, creating a sense of depth and movement. Below this, a solid horizontal bar in a medium gray color spans the width of the image.

Dashes

Use dashes to show an abrupt break in thought.

Ex. Clara Barton – whose nickname was Angel of the Battlefield – founded the Red Cross.

Dashes

- The dash is used similarly to a comma or parenthesis, but is considered stronger.
- Do not use a dash when a comma will work.

Dashes

Two ways to use a dash:

1. Independent clause—thought—independent clause.
2. Independent clause—thought.

- I'd better have passed my test—it's ninety percent of my class grade—or I'll have to go to summer school.
- Well, I passed the test—granted, I cheated—but I passed!
- Abby gave me a terrible haircut—and she expected a tip!

Ellipses

An ellipsis is a trio of periods (...)

Two main uses:

1. It serves as a placeholder for text when an entire quotation is not used.
2. It indicates a pause or trailing off of a thought.

Ellipses

Abbreviating a quote with an ellipsis should appear as follows.

- "All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players: they have their exits and their entrances; and one man in his time plays many parts, his acts being seven ages." - William Shakespeare
- "All the world's a stage ... his acts being seven ages." - William Shakespeare

Ellipses

If you wish to indicate a pause or trailing off:

- **A pause in speech**

"I think I just got an... interview!"

- **An unfinished thought**

"Now, where on earth did I put that...?"

- **A sentence that trails into silence**

"I thought you might say that..."