

Lesson 10

Punctuation to Indicate a Pause or Break

CCSS

L.8.2.a: Use punctuation (comma, ellipsis, dash) to indicate a pause or break.



Introduction

Sometimes in your writing, you will want to signal a pause. The pause may be in the middle of a sentence or at the end of it. You can use commas, dashes, or ellipses to cue different types of pauses.

Punctuation	When to Use	Examples
Commas	to set off nonessential information	Professional sports, such as football and basketball , can be more fun to watch live than on TV. Yesterday's game was thrilling, especially at the end .
Dashes	to indicate a change in thought or an abrupt break, or to emphasize set-off text	Some people think baseball is boring— nine innings of players standing around . The batter swung and— with the crack of his bat —knocked the ball out of the park.
Ellipses	to indicate an unfinished action or the process of thinking	With two seconds left on the clock, the player dribbled down the court ... slam dunk!



Guided Practice

Add the type of punctuation shown in parentheses to correctly signal the pause in each sentence. Use a caret (^) to add dashes and ellipses.

Hint

When you use commas or dashes to signal a pause in the middle of a sentence, be sure to use the same punctuation before and after the pause.

Example:

Camella—that girl over there—plays hockey.

NOT

Camella, that girl over there—plays hockey.

- 1 Did you see the game between the Hornets and the Grizzlies the one that went into overtime? (comma)
- 2 Suddenly the referee blew his whistle stopping the game for a penalty. (ellipsis)
- 3 A professional athlete runs the risk of serious injury a disaster that could even end a career. (dash)
- 4 Our softball team has a game next Thursday not Friday. (comma)
- 5 Curtis a newcomer to our team usually scores the most runs. (dashes)
- 6 At 6:00 A.M. a time when most people are asleep Curtis and his brother are out practicing. (commas)
- 7 My mom says I can go to the game if I accomplish one thing an A on my algebra test. (dash)
- 8 Stepping up to the plate he keenly focused his eyes on the pitcher. (ellipsis)



For numbers 1–5, choose the best way to punctuate the pause in each sentence.

Answer Form

- 1 (A) (B) (C) (D)
- 2 (A) (B) (C) (D)
- 3 (A) (B) (C) (D)
- 4 (A) (B) (C) (D)
- 5 (A) (B) (C) (D)

Number Correct / 5

- 1** **A** The ball slowly rolled around the rim and finally, dropped through the hoop.

B The ball slowly rolled, around the rim, and finally dropped through the hoop.

C The ball slowly rolled . . . around the rim and finally dropped through the hoop.

D The ball slowly rolled around the rim . . . and finally dropped through the hoop.

- 2** **A** That tennis ball is flying toward you—watch out!

B That tennis ball is—flying toward you watch out!

C That tennis ball is flying toward you, watch out!

D That tennis ball is—flying toward you—watch out!

- 3** **A** The score after six innings—if she remembered correctly was 4 to 1.

B The score after six innings if she remembered correctly, was 4 to 1.

C The score after six innings . . . if she remembered correctly was 4 to 1.

D The score after six innings, if she remembered correctly, was 4 to 1.

- 4** **A** Let’s get something to eat, maybe popcorn or nachos—at halftime.

B Let’s get something to eat—maybe popcorn or nachos—at halftime.

C Let’s get something to eat maybe popcorn or nachos, at halftime.

D Let’s get something to eat—maybe popcorn or nachos, at halftime.

- 5** **A** Competing in the Olympics, what an amazing experience, that would be.

B Competing in the Olympics . . . what an amazing experience, that would be.

C Competing in the Olympics . . . what an amazing experience that would be.

D Competing in the Olympics—what an amazing experience—that would be.

Lesson 11

Punctuation to Indicate an Omission

CCSS
L.8.2.b: Use an ellipsis to indicate an omission.



Introduction

When you write direct quotations, sometimes you must indicate that you have left out part of the quoted material or the speaker's words. You can do this by using an **ellipsis** (. . .). The ellipsis points, or dots, are separated by a space before and after each dot. Notice how the boldface words in the example below have been replaced by ellipses.

Original Text

Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Phantom of the Opera* is the longest-running musical in the history of Broadway. It tells **a haunting and tragic story** about a deformed, mysterious being **who lurks around an opera house**. The Phantom falls in love with a young singer and then takes revenge **when his feelings are not returned**.

Quoted Text

One critic wrote, "Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Phantom of the Opera* is the longest-running musical in the history of Broadway. It tells . . . about a deformed, mysterious being. . . . The Phantom falls in love with a young singer and then takes revenge. . . ."

Replace words in the middle of a sentence with three dots.

Replace words at the end of a sentence with three dots, plus a fourth dot for the period.

For an ellipsis at the end of a quotation, make sure the quotation mark immediately follows the end punctuation.



Guided Practice

Rewrite each quotation, correctly replacing the underlined words with ellipses.

Hint

When an ellipsis replaces words that are followed by a comma in the original text, the ellipsis should also be followed by a comma.

Example:

Christine, who is the heroine *of the play*, is a good actor.

Christine, who is the heroine . . . , is a good actor.

1 My mother told me, "*Phantom of the Opera* had amazing songs, costumes, and special effects."

2 One critic wrote, "The actor gave a chilling performance I'll never forget. It was award-winning."

3 According to an article I read, "The musical is based on a novel by Gaston Leroux."

4 "The novel was made into a silent film in 1925 and a movie in 1994," said my mom.



For numbers 1–4, which of the following shows how the writer could correctly shorten the quotation?

Answer Form

1 (A) (B) (C) (D)

2 (A) (B) (C) (D)

3 (A) (B) (C) (D)

4 (A) (B) (C) (D)

Number
Correct

/ 4

- 1** Our teacher told us, "Andrew Lloyd Webber is a famous composer whose spectacularly interpreted stage version of *Phantom of the Opera* draws huge crowds."
- A** Our teacher told us, "Andrew Lloyd Webber is a famous composer whose version of *Phantom of the Opera* draws huge crowds. . . ."
- B** Our teacher told us, "Andrew Lloyd Webber is a famous composer whose version of *Phantom of the Opera* . . . draws huge crowds."
- C** Our teacher told us, . . . "Andrew Lloyd Webber is a famous composer whose version of *Phantom of the Opera* draws huge crowds."
- D** Our teacher told us, "Andrew Lloyd Webber is a famous composer whose . . . version of *Phantom of the Opera* draws huge crowds."

- 2** One reviewer wrote that the musical was "dazzling, colorful, and beautifully performed and had many outstanding special effects."
- A** One reviewer wrote that the musical was "dazzling, colorful, and beautifully performed. . . ."
- B** One reviewer wrote that the musical was "dazzling, colorful, . . . and beautifully performed."
- C** One reviewer wrote that the musical was "dazzling, colorful, and beautifully . . . performed."
- D** One reviewer wrote that . . . the musical was "dazzling, colorful, and beautifully performed."

- 3** The article I read said the following: "Author Gaston Leroux based his novel on stories he had long heard about ghosts in the opera house."
- A** The article I read said the following: "Author Gaston Leroux based his novel on stories about ghosts in the opera house" . . .
- B** The article I read said the following: "Author Gaston Leroux based his novel on stories about ghosts in the opera house. . . ."
- C** The article I read said the following: "Author Gaston Leroux based his novel on stories . . . about ghosts in the opera house."
- D** The article I read said the following: "Author Gaston Leroux based his novel on stories about ghosts . . . in the opera house."

- 4** "I can't wait to see *Phantom of the Opera* on Broadway this June. The tickets are expensive but worth it," said Jo.
- A** "I can't wait to see *Phantom of the Opera*. The tickets are expensive . . . but worth it," said Jo.
- B** "I can't wait to see *Phantom of the Opera*. The tickets are expensive but worth it . . . ," said Jo.
- C** "I can't wait to see *Phantom of the Opera*. . . . The tickets are expensive but worth it," said Jo.
- D** "I can't wait . . . to see *Phantom of the Opera*. The tickets are expensive but worth it," said Jo.