Ellipsis

The Perfect Tool For a…Pause.

# Explanation

An ellipsis is indicated by three periods and can be used to evoke one of two things in your writing:

1. A pause
2. An indication of omission from a quote

A pause can be indicated simply by tacking the ellipsis onto the final bit of wording or dialogue to indicate the writer is stopping his thought process for a moment. An ellipsis used in a quote, on the other hand, indicates that the writer has omitted some wording from the original quote.

# Examples

1. **Pause**:

“But it was too late…the food had already been burnt.”

“Not a whole lot could be done after that…”

1. **Quote omissions**:

“Let every nation know…That we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, to assure the survival and the success of liberty.” (John F. Kennedy)

We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline…Again and again we must rise to the majestic heights of meeting physical force with soul force.” (Martin Luther King Jr.)

# Exercises

*Can you indicate if the text uses ellipsis points for a pause or an omission from a quote? Where might this punctuation be appropriately used in some of these quotes?*

1. Well,…I really don’t want to give away the ending of the series.
2. “Mix the dough in a bowl. If the bowl is blue, it will look like a cloud in the sky. Then, press the dough out on the baking sheet.”
3. There is still much work to do…We are, after all, only just beginning.
4. “I had found a rare bird species in the forest. It was on a Friday, my favorite day of the week as well. I immediately took out my camera to capture proof of its habitat there.”