



Literacy Lesson 8: Ellipsis

An ellipsis is used for 3 main reasons.

A: *An ellipsis* can be used to acknowledge missing words in a text when quoting:

For example, take the sentence: “On November 11th 2010, the Connaught School held a minute’s silence to remember military personnel who have died in the name of peace & freedom, and it was respected by everybody.”

This could now read: “On November 11th 2010, the Connaught School held a minute’s silence... it was respected by everybody.”

This can be useful if you are quoting in an exam. It will get the main point across, and you won’t have to write out the entire quote!

B: *An ellipsis* can be used to indicate a pause in speech:

It was the day of the U14 cup final, and Mr Baker was as excited as the entire football team put together. He looked around the dressing room before launching into his pre-match speech: “You’re good enough, boys. Just remember your Olympic values: Determination... courage... and just a little inspiration. That’s all it takes, lads” he began.

This controls the pace the reader reads at, creates dramatic pauses and makes certain words ‘stand out’ from the rest.

C: Finally, *An ellipsis* can be used at the very end of a sentence so words trail off into silence:

“You ‘forgot’ your homework *again?*” exclaimed Mr Daley. The student froze. Mr Daley gritted his teeth, gripped the scalpel tightly in his right hand and slowly advanced...

This encourages the reader to draw their own conclusions, and can be equally ‘dramatic.’

This is the last of your 8 Literacy Lessons on punctuation,
so your task for today is *revision*.

Revision Task 1: Try and remember *all* of the punctuation marks we have looked at so far this term. Can you remember what they're all for?

<i>Literacy Lessons, Autumn Term 2010</i>	
1	God's lovely Apostrophes
2	"Speech Marks"
3 (x2)	Commas, Full Stops.
4 (x2)	Question Marks? Exclamation Marks!
5 (x2)	Colons: & Semi-Colons:
6 (x2)	- Hyphens (& Brackets)
7	'Inverted Commas'
8	Ellipses...

Revision Task 2: When you've written them all down, try and draw a 'punctuation face' using just punctuation marks (this is usually a year 7 task, but can be fun for older students, too)!