



Using the Ellipsis to Omit Text

An ellipsis is a series of three dots (. . .) which shows that some text has been left out. The ellipsis is used to shorten a passage. The omitted text does not change the meaning of the original text and is unnecessary to its meaning.

COMPLETE TEXT: The crowd that gathered outside of the stadium at five in the morning was rowdy and contentious.

TEXT WITH ELLIPSIS: The crowd . . . was rowdy and contentious.

Note there is a space before and after the ellipsis. If the ellipsis comes at the end of a sentence, the ellipsis is followed by a space and a period.

Rewrite each sentence below, omitting text and using an ellipsis.

1. In an attempt to get the front of the house cleaned up and made presentable, after years of not really bothering with it, my parents planted some bushes and flowers.
2. Her new job was rewarding; after nine months of struggling to make ends meet doing freelance work, she was finally appreciated for her expertise and enjoyed receiving a regular paycheck.
3. Some commuter buses offer free wireless access. While not all passengers take advantage of it, those passengers that use it claim that it makes the journey much more productive.
4. We buy our chicken from a local farmer. She allows them to roam freely around her property, so consequently they are the meatiest chickens we have ever had.
5. Taking care of a swimming pool is easy. Though there is something of a learning curve, once you understand the simple maintenance schedule there is very little time or effort required.