

Punctuation: Pauses and Breaks

An ellipsis is a series of three dots (. . .) which often shows that some text has been left out. But it may also indicate a pause, a hesitation, or an incomplete thought, especially when used within a quotation. The dash is used either to signal an interruption, or to call attention to some extra information.

DIRECTIONS: Read each sentence below. Identify what the ellipsis or dash in each sentence indicates. Write the correct letter on the line.

- A. hesitation B. an unfinished thought C. pause
D. interruption E. calling attention



- _____ 1. "Well . . ." Steve said, not wanting to hurt her feelings.
- _____ 2. Mandy waited . . . and sure enough, the music started up again.
- _____ 3. "Yes, I like you—as a friend."
- _____ 4. The day was tremendous—the best ever—and I owe it all to you.
- _____ 5. "Well I thought that at first, but then—" Owen was saying when Jeff began to speak
- _____ 6. I wanted to be popular, but everyone I know . . . oh, forget it.
- _____ 7. Lady . . . well, let's just say she was a challenging dog.
- _____ 8. "Coach Cooper," Kevin finally got up the nerve to ask. "I was wondering . . . would you consider me for first string?"
- _____ 9. "I could have sworn that—" she was saying as the door banged open.