Understanding the Ellipsis

An ellipsis is a series of three dots ( . . . ) which shows that some text has been left out. Omitted material can include the passage of time, an unfinished thought, or text from a quotation that does not affect the meaning of the quotation.

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

A. passage of time       B. an unfinished thought       C. text from a quotation

_____ 1. John really wanted to keep going, but he knew that without Jim . . .

_____ 2. New people moved in . . . and out . . . and then someone else moved in.

_____ 3. She was hesitant, but she said, “I do like you . . . but that doesn’t change anything.”

_____ 4. The dog ran away . . . the cat had kittens . . . and we got a hamster.


_____ 6. According to business coach Wyatt Miller, “The contract is probably one of the most important documents in business . . . without it, business could not effectively be done.”

_____ 7. Growing potatoes . . . is a fairly simple procedure.

_____ 8. Night came and we dozed off . . . by the time we woke it was too late.

_____ 9. Cheating is so . . . well there’s no good reason for it, is what I mean.

_____ 10. The ball soared into the air . . . and threw the goalposts for a 50 yard field goal.