

Read and Analyze

Ellipses

Eng. I
Lesson 2 Day 2

Unit 7: Lesson 80

- a. The true men of action in our time, those who transform the world, are not the politicians and statesmen, but the scientists.

—W. H. Auden, *The Dyer's Hand*

- b. The true men of action . . . are not the politicians and statesmen, but the scientists.

—W. H. Auden, *The Dyer's Hand*

How is sentence *b* different from sentence *a*? _____
What punctuation mark is used to signal this? _____

An **ellipsis**, a group of three spaced periods, is used to mark the omission of words from a quotation. An ellipsis can also be used to signal a pause. When you use an ellipsis after words that are not a complete sentence, leave a space before the first spaced period. When you use an ellipsis after a sentence, use the sentence's end mark, and leave a space between it and the first spaced period.

See Handbook Section 9

Practice

Read both versions of each quotation. Place an *X* by the one that has words left out. Circle the marks that indicate this. Then, in the full version of the quotation, underline the words that were replaced by the marks.

1. a. The reasons we know that we will discover things we can't describe now is that this has been the history of science. We do things to learn something we can define, and we wind up knowing things we never imagined asking about.

- b. . . . This has been the history of science. We do things to learn something we can define, and we wind up knowing things we never imagined asking about.

—Maxine Singer, in *A World of Ideas*, by Bill Moyers

2. a. Not many appreciate the ultimate power and potential usefulness of basic knowledge accumulated by obscure, unseen investigators . . . who go on seeking answers to the unknown without thought of financial or practical gain.

- b. Not many appreciate the ultimate power and potential usefulness of basic knowledge accumulated by obscure, unseen investigators who, in a lifetime of intense study, may never see any practical use for their findings but who go on seeking answers to the unknown without thought of financial or practical gain.

—Eugenie Clark, *The Lady and the Sharks*

Apply

Rewrite each quotation, replacing the boldfaced words with an ellipsis.

3. We live in a scientific age, yet we assume that knowledge of science is the prerogative of only a small number of human beings isolated and priestlike in their laboratories. **That is not true. The materials of science are the materials of life itself.** Science is part of the reality of living; it is the what, the how, and the why for everything in our experience.

—Rachel Carson, in *The House of Life*, by Paul Brooks

4. . . . Science is one of the grand human activities. **It uses the same kind of talent and creativity as painting pictures and making sculptures.** It's not really very different except that you do it from a base of technical knowledge. **Science is not an inhuman or superhuman activity.** It's something that humans invented, and it speaks to one of our great needs—to understand the world around us.

—Maxine Singer, in *A World of Ideas*, by Bill Moyers

Reinforce

Read the quotation below by American geneticist and Nobel Prize winner Barbara McClintock. Circle the ellipsis that signals a pause.

If you know you are on the right track, if you have this inner knowledge, then nobody can turn you off . . . no matter what they say.

On the lines below, write a paragraph telling how these words could inspire someone trying to solve a problem or make a discovery. Use the quotation in your paragraph.
