



## ELLIPSES

### 26a

### Signal omissions

Ellipses (or ellipsis points) consist of three periods that are spaced equally apart. They are used in quotations to indicate that words have been omitted. If the omission occurs at the end of a sentence, put the ellipses after the period that is at the end of the sentence.

Original → “My attitude towards punctuation is that it ought to be as conventional as possible. The game of golf would lose a good deal if croquet mallets and billiard cues were allowed on the putting green. You ought to be able to show that you can do it a good deal better than anyone else with the regular tools before you have a license to bring in your own improvements.”

—Ernest Hemingway

Quotation → “My attitude towards punctuation is that it ought to be as conventional as possible. . . . You ought to be able to show that you can do it a good deal better than anyone else . . . before you have a license to bring in your own improvements.”

When quoting poetry, use a line of ellipsis points to signal that you have dropped a line or more of the poem.

## GIVE ME A SIGN

By Linda R. O'Connell  
2008

Give me a sign  
of any kind  
at all.

That tells me we share  
the same soul.

.....

And walk with me  
forever.

Until the moonlight is not required.

For this love  
within our hearts,

Would light the world  
on fire.



### 26b

## Signal a pause or hesitation

Ellipses can also be used to signal a pause or hesitation.

- ➔ I wish ... that punctuation was as conventional as possible, just as Hemingway describes it.