What is an Ellipses?

- An ellipsis (. . .) is a series of three periods used to:

  ○ Show omitted words in a quotation

  ○ Replace sentences or sections of text

  ○ Indicate hesitation, suspense, or trailing thoughts

  ○ Show a sudden shift in topic

- An ellipsis **does not** change the meaning of the quoted material.

Common Uses

1. **Omitting Words or Sections**

- Ellipses can shorten a quote while keeping its meaning.

- **Example 1:**

  ○ **Original**: "Yesterday, after careful consideration and thought, she enrolled in the class."

  ○ **Ellipses:** "Yesterday … she enrolled in the class."

- **Example 2:**

  ○ **Original**: "Please clean up the mess your team left in the locker rooms before you go home today."

  ○ **Ellipses:** "Please clean up the mess … before you go home today."

2. **Hesitation or Trailing Thoughts**

- Ellipses can show a pause, uncertainty, or a sentence trailing off.

- **Example 1:**

  ○ **Original:** "I don't know what time we should go to the grocery. I'll have to think about it."

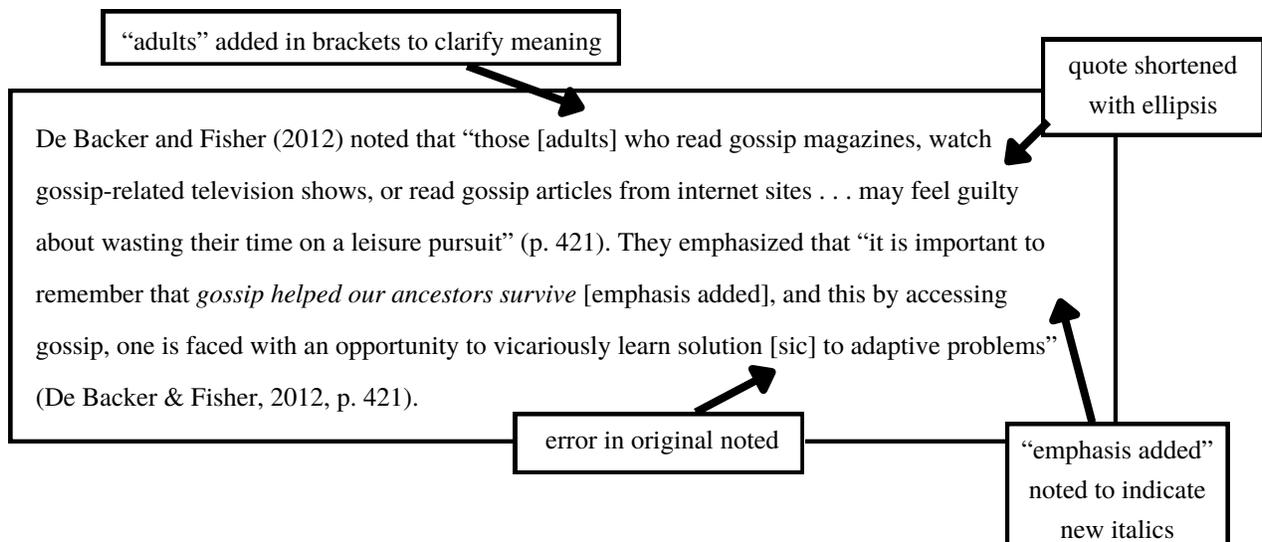 ○ **Ellipses:** "I don't know what time we should go to the grocery …"

- **Example 2:**
  - **Original:** "They were devastated. They were confused. They had never been in this situation before."
  - **Ellipsis:** "They were devastated … confused … they had never been in this situation before."

3. **APA 7th Edition Guidelines**

- **Omitting material:** Use three periods with spaces (. . .) or the ellipsis character (…).

- **Omitted sentence endings:** Use four periods (. …) to indicate the end of one sentence and the start of another omitted sentence.

- **Adding material:** Enclose insertions or explanations in square brackets [like this].

- **Emphasis:** Italicize words you want to emphasize, then add [emphasis added].

- **Errors in quotes:** Indicate with [sic] immediately after the error.

- Do not begin or end a paragraph with an ellipsis, and ellipses should not change the original meaning of the quote.
  - **APA 7th Example:**

"adults" added in brackets to clarify meaning

quote shortened with ellipsis

De Backer and Fisher (2012) noted that "those [adults] who read gossip magazines, watch gossip-related television shows, or read gossip articles from internet sites . . . may feel guilty about wasting their time on a leisure pursuit" (p. 421). They emphasized that "it is important to remember that *gossip helped our ancestors survive* [emphasis added], and this by accessing gossip, one is faced with an opportunity to vicariously learn solution [sic] to adaptive problems" (De Backer & Fisher, 2012, p. 421).

error in original noted

"emphasis added" noted to indicate new italics

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%20to%20a%20quotation%20requiring,or%20tie%20two%20sentences%20together).

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